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WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN DISTRICT
HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT AND
WELWYN RURAL DISTRICT

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health
and Public Health Inspectors
of the Districts

for the year

1964

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HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT AND
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THE CHAIRMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN, HATFIELD RURAL
AND WELWYN RURAL DISTRICTS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health and social condition of your Districts for 1964. As in the previous report, information on the County Health Services in the Welwyn Division is included in a separate section, as a supplement to the earlier sections covering the work of the Public Health Departments of the District Councils. The sections dealing with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Area, and the Inspection and Supervision of Food have been compiled by the Public Health Inspectors to whom I am indebted.

The vital statistics given in the opening pages of each District Report compare, with one exception, quite favourably with previous years and those for England and Wales, showing that the three Districts have continued to enjoy a good standard of health. Neo-natal Infant Deaths, i.e. Deaths under four weeks, in the Hatfield Rural District (15) were high for the second year in succession resulting in a rate which was twice that of the County and well above the national rate. While inferences should not be too readily drawn from rates which result from relatively small numbers, a close study has been made of the causes of these early infant deaths, all but one of which followed hospital delivery. Prematurity, Congenital defects and Birth Trauma were the causes of all but two of the deaths. No fault could be found in the selection for hospital delivery, ante natal supervision or delivery of these mothers.

Once again I am pleased to report that no major infectious disease, poliomyelitis or diphtheria occurred throughout the Districts and the incidence of the minor infections was very low apart from measles, which, as in previous years, was common among young children in all communities early in the year. There were fewer notifications of Scarlet Fever and the Streptococcal infections and Whooping Cough continue to decline both in number and severity due to the widespread use of triple vaccine in primary immunisation of infants.

There were no outbreaks of Food Poisoning in the Districts during the year. Practitioners have continued to report cases of dysentery and gastro enteritis to the Public Health Departments for home visiting, follow up and assistance with tests of cure, and I am grateful for the ready co-operation of the laboratories at Hill End

and Queen Elizabeth II Hospitals. The minor food infections were of varied origin, the majority responding rapidly to treatment. The principal cause of concern to the public health during the year was the outbreak of Typhoid Fever in Aberdeen during the early Summer, reported so prominently by press and radio. Although confined mainly within the boundaries of the City, concern was felt throughout the land when it was shown that an infected six pound tin of imported corned beef could give rise to such a widespread risk of infection resulting in some five hundred persons contracting the disease. The outbreak illustrates the need for meticulous supervision of the processing of canned foods, particularly imported products, the need for all engaged in the food trade to observe the strictest rules of hygiene in their daily work, and also the great advances in the treatment of the disease resulting from the use of the new chemotherapeutic preparations.

The fusion of the Health and Welfare functions of the County Council facilitates the development of the domiciliary social services supporting the mentally handicapped, the elderly and the physically handicapped in conjunction with the work of the medical practitioners and hospital services, and every opportunity is sought to integrate the earlier services, e.g. home nursing and midwifery, health visiting, and home help services. The excellent clinical meetings arranged regularly at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital are proving of great value in unifying the services particularly in child care and maternity arrangements, while the local committee of the Hertfordshire Association for the Welfare of the Handicapped and the Old Peoples Welfare Councils are stimulating voluntary support for the welfare of the handicapped. When the history of the Public Health Service in these years comes to be written, I am sure that the benefits resulting from this improvement in the domiciliary health and welfare services will be proved to have been as great as the benefits from the reduction of communicable diseases by antibiotics in the preceding 20 years. Shortage of professional and technical staffs requires frequent review and modifying of the services, but this is a necessary and stimulating discipline when combined with an eye on the opportunity for giving a lead in new approaches to the assessment of health and early detection of abnormality e.g. diabetic surveys and the early detection of cancer.

The Public Health Inspectors have had a busy year with housing inspection and food hygiene taking up much of their time. Useful advice is given to retailers and canteen supervisors on improved equipment for the storage, display and serving of food, resulting in considerable improvement of standards in the larger establishments. A good start has been made on the detailed visits required by the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, but it will take two or three years before all the requirements of the new

regulations have been effectively brought into force. Due to steady effort since the war it can now be fairly said that no slum houses remain to be dealt with in Mid Herts. Some premises it is true still lack the standard amenities or are otherwise capable of improvement, and it is now in this sphere by both formal representations for improvement or by agreement with owners that the Inspectors maintain the general improvement.

The living conditions of families in caravans in the Hatfield and Welwyn Rural Districts has been vastly improved by the establishing of the two fixed sites for itinerant gypsies in Hatfield, and the controlled site for 89 caravans laid out by the District Council. The problem of the nomadic caravaner with the many public health problems resulting, has thus been eliminated, and although some families with children living on the sites would prefer a permanent home, their present conditions are reasonably satisfactory until the opportunity for transfer comes.

In conclusion, I must again express my appreciation of the co-operation and assistance given by the Clerk and other Officers of the respective District Councils, and especially to the Public Health Inspectors who have helped me by carrying out much detailed work in addition to their routine duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

G. R. TAYLOR

July, 1965.

Medical Officer of Health.

WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical
Officer of Health and of the
Public Health Inspector for 1964

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

G. R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S. (London) M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector:

M. STOCKDALE, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

L. GARDINER, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Rodent Operative:

E. J. THOMAS

Clerks:

Mrs. E.R. GEORGE (left 14.6.64)

Mrs. D.L. WALLACE (commenced 14.7.64)

A. A. W. CALLABY

WELWYN GARDEN CITY SECTION

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	24,231
Population (mid year 1964 estimated by the Registrar General)	39,560
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March 1965	11,660
Rateable value of the District, 31st March 1965	£3,123,765
Product of a penny rate, 1964/65	£12,798

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Male	Female	Total
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	117	117	234
LIVE BIRTHS			
Number	398	358	756
Rate per 1,000 population			19.1
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS PER CENT OF TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS			2.9
STILLBIRTHS			
Number	3	3	6
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			7.9
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS			762
INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under 1 year)	5	3	8
INFANT MORTALITY RATES:			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			10.5
Legitimate " " " " Legitimate live births			9.7
Illegitimate " " " " Illegitimate " "			26.3
NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)			5.9
EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)			5.9
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)			13.1
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Including abortion):			
Number of deaths			Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			Nil

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of population at mid 1964 was 39,560 compared with 38,350 in mid 1963. The natural increase of population i.e. excess of births over deaths 522, was 42 less than in the previous two years mainly due to fewer births.

Deaths

Cancer, Heart Disease and Cerebral Vascular Accidents, the three main causes of death in the elderly accounted for two thirds of the total deaths during the year. Deaths from cancer are a little above recent years mainly due to the increase in lung cancer which was responsible for a third of the total cancer deaths.

34 out of a total of 81 deaths attributed to heart disease were the result of coronary thrombosis.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average past five years</u>
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	-	-	-	-
Cancer, Malignant disease	27	27	54	41
Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis	6	23	29	21
Heart Diseases	47	34	81	58
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	3	5	7
Leukaemia	1	-	1	-
Pneumonia	4	8	12	8
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	8	4	12	10
Ulcer of the stomach etc.	-	-	-	2
Road Traffic and other accidents	10	6	16	9
Diabetes	-	1	1	3
Suicide	1	1	2	4
Congenital Malformation	4	-	4	1
Nephritis	-	-	-	-
Other defined causes	7	10	17	21
Pregnancy	-	-	-	-
	117	117	234	

Deaths from Cancer:

Total 54.

Respiratory tract	19	Alimentary tract and liver	8
Breast	5	Uterus	1
		Unclassified	21

Comparison of Annual Rates:

The following table shows the Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1960 with the corresponding figures for England and Wales for 1964.

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Births	Standardised Birth Rate	Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Births	Standardised Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
1960	22.9	0.77	17.6	5.1	1.90	9.6	8.0
1961	21.4	0.75	16.0	5.9	1.97	11.6	23.8
1962	20.9	0.75	15.7	5.6	2.0	11.2	14.3
1963	20.7	0.87	18.0	5.9	1.86	10.97	15.1
1964	19.1	0.87	16.6	5.9	1.86	10.97	10.5
England and Wales 1964			18.4			11.3	20.0

Births

756 live births were registered in the town during the year a fall of 37 from the previous year. The adjusted birth rate of 16.6 per 1,000 total population reflects this fall.

Death Rate

The adjusted death rate of 10.97 per 1,000 total population is identical with the previous year, and also about the same as the corresponding rate for the County.

Infant Mortality

Eight infants died during the year. Two of these deaths occurred at home - the remainder in hospital.

Examination of the causes of death shows that four occurred within the first three hours of life due to congenital abnormalities and causes associated with difficult birth, the later deaths being due to pneumonia and pulmonary oedema (3) and enlarged thymus (1).

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following notifications of infectious diseases were received during the year.

Scarlet Fever	16	Diphtheria	Nil
Whooping Cough	16	Poliomyelitis	Nil
Measles	562	Dysentery	14
Pneumonia	9	Erysipelas	1
Food Poisoning	1	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2

I am pleased to report a further year of freedom from diphtheria, poliomyelitis and major infectious disease, and no outbreaks of food poisoning in the town. Measles was troublesome particularly in the Spring among pre school and primary school children and we shall welcome the release of measles vaccine for more widespread use should the present clinical trials in this country prove satisfactory. Scarlet fever and whooping cough notifications were low and again relate to mild types of infection the clinical manifestations rapidly subsiding with modern treatment. Notifications of dysentery again relate to a mixed group of gastro intestinal upsets investigated by the department some being of virus origin.

There has been good co-operation with the medical and nursing staff at St. Stephen's Ward, St. Albans City Hospital for the few cases of infectious disease needing hospital care.

Tuberculosis

Five new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and five non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified in the town during 1964, giving an attack rate of 0.23 per 1,000 population. Six notified cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were transferred into the town mainly from the London area during the year, being quiescent cases under observation following medical treatment. Once again there were no deaths from tuberculosis during the year.

A review of the tuberculosis registers carried out during the year in conjunction with the Chest Clinic shows a total of 258 cases remaining under observation or treatment at the end of the year.

The mobile X-ray units visit Trevelyan House each Tuesday afternoon to take chest X-rays of persons referred by medical practitioners without the need for prior appointment, and arrangements were made with the Mass Radiography Unit for a visit to the town early in 1965.

The close co-operation with Dr. Edwards and his staff at the Chest Clinic has been well maintained throughout the year, and the weekly Chest Physicians sessions at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital are proving of great assistance to patients living in the town, avoiding the need to travel to St. Albans. The B.C.G. protection of school children aged 13 years was carried out during the Spring Term, some 588 children receiving the protecting inoculation.

Housing

Steady progress was maintained in the Council's new housing scheme during the year. The redevelopment of the Wellcroft/Wheatley Road site, Housing Scheme No.19 being completed by the end of the year to provide 44 elderly persons bungalows and flats, with communal room for recreational purposes, together with 76 dwellings and 79 garages. The clearance of the Heather Road/Springfields site was completed and work has commenced on this site on Housing Scheme No.20 which will provide 44 houses and 24 elderly persons' bungalows together with 59 garages.

The Development Corporation continued their policy of allocating 50 vacancies per year to meet the growing needs of sons and daughters of Development Corporation tenants requiring separate accommodation in the town after marriage.

As at 31.12.64

Number of houses and flats owned by the Council	2,956
" " garages owned by the Council	764
" " families housed during the year	153

Position of Application Register :-

Priority grades	309
Non-Priority Grades	36
Engaged Couples	277

Number of applicants for garages	99
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The Development Corporation completed a total of 180 dwellings during the year made up as follows :-

24	Monthly rented properties
156	Weekly " "

The monthly rented dwellings were mainly batchelor flats, and of the weekly rented properties 48 were used for housing Old Age Pensioners.

In the near future it is hoped to have the 18 Old Age Pensioner flats in Peartree Court handed over. These flats were specially designed for old people and have central heating, constant hot water, refrigerator, plus special facilities such as toilet and bath aid and switches in the bathroom and bedroom connected to an alarm system in the warden's flat. A common room, communal laundry, interior and exterior drying facilities are also provided.

Work is now in progress on the schemes known as Panshanger 1 and 2, which, when completed, will provide approximately 500 houses for sale plus 44 flats for renting. A few small infilling schemes are also at present under construction.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

From the 1st August, 1960, the Council's Water Undertaking was taken over by the Lee Valley Water Company. That Company's Chemist and Bacteriologist sends monthly reports in summary form reporting the quality of water supplied to this district. During 1964 twelve such reports were received from him. The table summarises these:-

<u>Month obtained</u>	<u>Total Samples</u>	<u>Examined Bacteriologically</u>	<u>Examined Chemically</u>
<u>1964</u>			
January	37	36	1
February	32	31	1
March	48	46	2
April	25	24	1
May	21	21	-
June	24	23	1
July	54	52	2
August	46	45	1
September	44	43	1
October	52	50	2
November	51	50	1
December	52	49	3
	<u>486</u>	<u>470</u>	<u>16</u>

All the 486 samples listed were considered to conform to the standard of purity considered suitable for a public supply.

A typical independant sample of water obtained from the public supply by the Public Health Department and submitted to the Counties Public Health Laboratories for chemical examination gave the following results:-

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Date: 10th March 1964

Appearance	Clear and bright
Colour... ..	Nil
pH	7.2
Electric Conductivity... ..	490
Chlorine present as Chloride	14
Hardness: Total	295
Nitrate Nitrogen	6.3
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.000
Turbidity	Nil
Odour	Nil
Free Carbon Dioxide	30
Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C	340
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	255
Carbonate	255
Non-carbonate	40
Nitrite Nitrogen... ..	absent
Oxygen Absorbed	0.40
Residual Chlorine	absent
Metals: Iron, Zinc, Copper, Lead :	absent

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is hard in character but not to an excessive degree and it contains no excess of mineral constituents. It is of very satisfactory organic quality and no abnormal taste or smell was detected in this sample.

From the aspect of the chemical analysis these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The town is served on the separate system.

Foul sewage is gathered by tributary sewers and by means of gravity or through one of five pumping stations, and is discharged via the Mimram Valley Outfall Sewer to the Middle Lea Regional Works at Ryemeads.

The Council's works in the Black Fan Valley have been demolished and the whole site has been converted to public parkland, and playing fields are proposed to the East of the valley.

Surface water is drained through lagoons to the valleys of the Lea and Mimram. An oil trap has been provided on the Mimram outfall sewer in the Black Fan Valley to improve the standard of discharge, and to give better facilities for sailing model yachts on the adjacent lagoon.

Rivers and Streams

A portion of the River Mimram, one mile (approximately) runs through the northern portion of the district, and a portion of the Lea, half mile (approximately) runs through the southern portion of the district.

3. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

With the exception of one cottage situated on the North Western boundary of the district, all closet accommodation is on the water carriage system. There are not any sewers available in the vicinity of this cottage.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal: All premises have galvanised metal dustbins for the deposit of refuse. The provision of galvanised iron dustbins is enforced under Section 64 of the Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council Act 1932. House refuse is collected weekly in covered motor vehicles by the Council's Refuse Collection Service.

Last year the Council's Brickfields refuse tip near Stanborough Lane became full and alternative arrangements had to be made for the reception of house refuse. Agreement was reached with Inns and Company Limited for all house refuse to be tipped at that Company's tip at Cole Green.

Subsequent to the closure of the Brickfields tip routine poison treatments were carried out at the tip by the Public Health Department to ensure that any rodents obtaining food or harbourage there were destroyed.

(b) Street Cleansing is carried out by two mechanical sweepers and seven street orderlies.

(c) Gully Cleansing: All gullies for which the Council are responsible are emptied and flushed three times per annum by Contract Gully Cleansing Limited who are employed by the Council under contract for this purpose.

(d) Dustbins: The Council's Refuse Collection Service notifies the Public Health Department of defective dustbins they find at houses and other dwellings. Sixteen new bins were provided during the year on owners being requested to do so. Details are as follows:-

Urban District Council	...	7
Other Owners	... ..	9

5. SHOPS

There are one hundred and seventy-two shops in the district in which the Health Department is responsible for enforcing part of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 and/or the Shops Act 1950. The Shops Act duties were transferred from the County Council on 1st October 1963. Five hundred and seventy-four

inspections of shops have been made during the year. The Shops Act, 1950, contains much that is obscure. In 1939 Lord Chief Justice Hewart, regarding similar provisions then in force, said "It might be possible, but I doubt if it would be easy in the same number of lines, to find more fertile opportunities for doubt and error." In a later case Lord Chief Justice Goddard decided it was all right to sell kippers (from a shop) on a Sunday because he didn't see why they should not be eaten raw, thus bringing them into the permitted Sunday category of "a meal or refreshment".

Plans of new shops are examined by the Health Department before they are approved, and representations made to the proposers where it appears that either the plans do not conform with the Public Health Act, 1936, or that structural alterations would be necessary on the shop becoming occupied, because the shops did not comply with the Shops Act, 1950, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

The following action, under the Public Health Act, 1936, the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, or the Shops Act, 1950, was taken:-

	<u>Defects found</u>	<u>Defects remedied</u>
Want of Cleanliness	12	12
Sanitary Defects	6	6
Infringements of Shops Act	48	48
Other Nuisances or Defects	6	6

Sixty-nine informal notices were given and sixty-nine informal notices were complied with. The need for formal action did not arise as in each case the occupier of the premises was prepared to comply with the requirements of the informal notice.

6. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

This Act came into force on 1st August 1964, and the occupiers of all registered premises must now comply with the provisions of the Act, which covers the health, safety and welfare of employees in those premises. A survey carried out in July 1964 showed that only two-thirds of the premises to which the Act applied had been registered, and it was necessary to circulate the occupiers of the remainder. Two hundred and fifty premises were registered by the end of the year, and this list includes every known employer covered by this Act and registrable by this Authority.

<u>Classification of premises</u>	<u>No. of premises registered</u>	<u>No. of employees</u>
Offices	83	2,228
Retail Shops	137	1,511
Wholesale departments or warehouses	11	106
Caterers, open to the public	17	329
Fuel storage depots	2	4
	<u>250</u>	<u>4,178</u>

Two hundred and four visits and revisits were made under this Act during the year and informal notices were served in respect of the following infringements:-

	No. of <u>informal notices</u>
Inadequate first aid equipment ...	22
Inadequate washing facilities ...	10
Danger or obstruction ...	5
Heating, lighting or ventilation ...	31
Overcrowding ...	3
Lack of maintenance ...	21

Occupiers of registered premises are required to notify the enforcing authority forthwith of any accident occurring in their premises which causes the death of an employee or which disables an employee for more than three days, from doing his usual work. Five non-fatal accidents were notified during the year. One of these was connected with power operated machinery, but investigation did not show negligence on the part of the employer. The remaining four accidents were not attributable to any defect or dangerous practice on the premises.

Care is taken during an inspection of the premises to note any unguarded machinery, or any defect which is liable to cause accident, and the occupier is required to take the necessary action.

A high percentage of the employers in Welwyn Garden City have studied the provisions of the Act and inspections to date show that working conditions are generally good.

7. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

(a) Number and nature of Inspections made during the year:-

Inspections of Factories (with mechanical power) ..	180
" " Factories (without mechanical power)	4
" " Milk Depots	16
" " Licensed Premises	31
Surveys and visits re Infested Premises (rats and mice)	3,331
Inspections of Shops	574
" re Insect Pests (excluding bed bugs) ..	203
" of Dwellings (not otherwise included) ..	247
" " Schools	28
Visits to Public Health Laboratories	57
Inspections of Dwelling-houses under Housing Act, 1957	148

Special Inspections or Visits made re:-

Drainage	148
Infectious Diseases (including food poisoning) ..	276
Smoke observations ..	203
Council Property (excluding houses) ..	13
Noise ..	44
Water Supply ..	24
Dustbins ..	13
Accumulations of refuse ..	62
Air Pollution observations ..	84
Miscellaneous Visits ..	146
Destruction of Bed Bugs ..	7

(b) Number of Informal Notices .. 123
(of these 123 were complied with and none were outstanding)

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT

(a) Smoke observations made ..	203
Smoke nuisances or smoke contraventions ..	15
Air pollution observations ..	84
Air pollution nuisances ..	8

(b) Industrial Area

Throughout the year when travelling in the industrial area, notice was taken of the standard of purity of the air. Generally it was seen to be clear and free from noticeable pollution. If noticeable pollution was observed, an attempt to trace the source was then made, unless prior appointments prevented this.

Regarding the smoke nuisances or smoke contraventions found during the year, it was rare to find a particular firm offending more than once. The abatement of smoke which is neither dark smoke as defined by the Clean Air Act, 1956, nor black smoke as defined by the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations, 1958, presents some difficulty.

(c) General

From the practical aspect the atmosphere of Welwyn Garden City is comparatively unpolluted. Cases of serious pollution by smoke, fumes or chemical odour occasionally arise and are dealt with.

(d) Acidic Smut

Considerable work has been involved in seeking to cure the emission of acidic soot from a large local factory. The firm concerned has a first-class record and has co-operated in seeking to find a cure. In spite of the introduction of additives to the fuel oil, the emission of smut still continues although it is considered that there has been improvement. In June 1965 a report by the Research Department of a

large oil company was made available after they had completed a full investigation of boiler-house efficiency. The report, whilst generally very favourable, made certain suggestions which are at present being considered. A precis explanation of how acidic soot or smuts are formed follows:-

Acid smuts consist of carbon and ash particles bonded together by sulphuric acid and containing iron sulphate. One of the reasons why these smuts are emitted is because the thermal conductivity of the flue is too high and the flue surface temperature is well below the acid dew point of the exit gases. Condensation of sulphuric acid then takes place on the flue surfaces and soot and ash particles adhere to form acidic agglomerates. These are eventually emitted from the flue, particularly when loosened by sudden increases in gas velocity (e.g. when an on-off boiler cuts in or cuts out).

(Agglomerate = to become collected into a ball or mass)

(e) Miscellaneous

Nearly every house is wired for electricity. Cooking is virtually all carried out on gas or electric stoves. Domestic consumption of electricity is believed to be proportionately as high as anywhere in the country.

In the town's factories, electricity is believed, in nearly all instances, to provide the motive power. Solid fuel or oil boilers are used for heating or trade processes only.

Whilst the atmosphere of Welwyn Garden City is comparatively unpolluted, improvement is still possible and the Council is determined that the improvement so far secured, shall be continued.

9. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Four houses were found to be infested during the year.

Complete destruction was achieved by selective spraying of both the infested rooms and their contents with a proprietary liquid insecticide.

10. NOISE ABATEMENT

(a) A total of forty-four visits were made during the year to deal with or to investigate noise problems. The abatement of noise is generally a new departure for Public Health Departments and presents difficult problems. Present methods used to abate noise are only tentative and acoustics have never been adequately studied.

(b) In law, to constitute a nuisance, noise must be unusual or excessive. It must be such as materially to interfere with the comfort of those living in the neighbourhood, according to plain, and sober, and simple notions.

It will be noted that the Council, therefore, has no power under the Act to require all noise to cease. Furthermore the Council has no authority to enforce the reduction of a noise emission unless it constitutes a nuisance within the meaning of the previous paragraph.

HOUSING

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	.. .. .	190
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose		288
(2)		Number of dwelling-houses found not to be fit for human habitation or in which defects were found	.. .. .	56

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notice :-

	Number of unfit houses rendered fit or in which defects were remedied as a consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	..	56
--	--	----	----

3. No action was taken under Statutory Powers during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. CONTROL OF FOOD

(a) MILK

(i) General

There are four milk distributors registered, of whom only two occupy milk depots in the town. The major part of the milk sold is produced outside the district.

(ii) It is estimated that over ninety-five per cent of the milk sold in the Garden City has been pasteurised before being retailed.

(iii) The Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas)(No.3) Order 1953, provided that all milk sold in the town must be "Pasteurised", "Tuberculin Tested", "Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)" or "Sterilised". This Order was amended by The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1963.

These Regulations were laid before Parliament on 25th September, 1963, and came into operation in three stages, becoming fully operative on 1st October, 1964. On the latter date the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1960, were revoked.

All milk produced in England and Wales now comes and will continue to come from attested herds; that is, from cows which are subjected to Tuberculin testing by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

"Untreated" will be the new designation from raw milk and replaces the designation "Tuberculin Tested" which is considered to be no longer suitable.

From 1st October, 1964, there will be three special designations for milk, viz. "Pasteurised", "Sterilised" and "Untreated".

Until 31st December, 1964, the use of the designation "Tuberculin Tested" as an alternative designation for "untreated" was also permitted, to allow a reasonable period for the changeover to be made.

(iv) The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.
The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963.

A close watch is kept on the handling and distribution of milk in the town. Three minor infringements of the former regulations and two of the latter were found. Informal notification was made to the distributors concerned who then complied with the regulations.

During the year sixteen inspections were made at milk depots.

(v) Biological Examinations

The County Council obtains samples of raw milk from Tuberculin Tested and non-designated herds and has them examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli and Brucella Abortus. No report of the presence of either of these organisms has been received during 1964.

(vi) Milk Sampling

Samples of milk are regularly obtained at approximately monthly intervals. The majority of the samples are taken on the public highway from distributors who are delivering milk to the public. This practice enables the cleanliness of milk as delivered to the public to be ascertained. Seventy-nine samples were obtained and delivered to Hill End Hospital Laboratory for examination by the prescribed tests. The number of samples of the various designations obtained were as follows:-

Pasteurised	30	Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	36
Sterilised	13		

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963 provide, amongst other requirements, that a sample which is to be examined by the Methylene Blue test shall be stored at "atmospheric shade temperature" for a period of time depending on the time of year when the sample was obtained. "If during the period of storage at atmospheric shade temperature to which a sample is subjected the temperature at any time exceeds 70°F., the test shall not be applied".

In a hot summer the temperature limit of 70°F. is often exceeded and the Methylene Blue test must not be applied if the regulation concerning that temperature limit is observed. This test indicates the keeping quality of the milk being tested. Hence, in the very hottest weather when it is important to ascertain if milk is of satisfactory keeping quality, this test is not to be applied. The purpose of the limitation is to render a failure legally void.

Informal agreement has been made with Hill End Hospital Laboratory that it will carry out the test however high the atmospheric shade temperature is. This enables the keeping quality to be ascertained in the hottest weather, although the result is legally void.

Of the seventy-nine samples of milk obtained during 1964, all passed every test prescribed. This involved a total of one hundred and forty-five tests. This is a unique happening. In the twenty-nine years for which records of milk sampling results are available, never before has every sample obtained during a single year passed all the tests prescribed.

GENERAL

The high standards obtained show the great care taken by producers, pasteurisers and distributors in handling the milk which was sampled.

(b) ICE CREAM AND SIMILAR PRODUCTS

Ice Cream

The bacterial quality of ice cream has been checked throughout the year with the aid of routine sampling and laboratory examination. Forty samples were obtained from eighteen retailers, covering seven different makes of ice cream.

Type of Ice Cream	<u>Provisional Grade</u>				<u>Total</u>
	1	2	3	4	
	<u>Satisfactory</u>		<u>Unsatisfactory</u>		
Wrapped brickettes	10	1	-	-	11
Wrapped Choc-bars	12	3	-	-	15
Partly wrapped	1	1	-	-	2
Part of previously opened carton	4	-	-	-	4
Soft Ice Cream	4	-	1	-	5
Ice Cream Mixture	3	-	-	-	3
	85%	12½%	2½%	-	100%

The single slightly unsatisfactory sample obtained was followed up by correspondence with the retailers concerned, but the particular vehicle from which it was obtained was not seen trading in the town again and no follow-up could therefore be taken.

Of the 40 samples listed in the table, twenty-four samples were obtained from shops and a café and sixteen were obtained from mobile vehicles.

Iced Cream Lollies

Seven samples of iced cream lollies, taken from three different manufacturers were submitted for bacteriological examination. All the samples submitted had been wrapped by the manufacturers. The laboratory reports on these samples were satisfactory, and no presumptive coli or faecal coli were reported as being present.

Iced Fruit Lollies

Seven samples of Iced fruit lollies were taken during the year. In each case the laboratory reported that the acidity of the sample was such that no bacterial growth could occur, and bacteriological examination would, therefore, have been useless. This is the normal finding by the laboratory when iced fruit lollies are submitted for bacteriological examination, but it is felt that occasional checks must still be carried out because of the great numbers of iced fruit lollies sold in the town.

In addition, where the pH value is 4.5 or less (as it is normally found to be) iced fruit lollies are exempted from the heat treatment provisions prescribed in Regulation 5 of The Ice-cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1959.

(c) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS, EXCLUDING MILK AND ICE CREAM

The amount of food voluntarily surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption during 1964, was 6,342 lbs., made up as follows:-

(i)	<u>Uncooked Food</u>					<u>lbs.</u>
	Meat	...	...	...	...	832
	Fish	...	...	...	...	57
	Cheese	...	...	...	...	28
(ii)	<u>Cooked Food</u>					
	Meat	...	...	...	...	14
(iii)	<u>Frozen Foods</u>	(due to refrigerator breakdown)				
	Vegetables	...	...	...	...	221
	Fish	...	...	...	...	134
	Meat	...	...	...	...	71
	Fruit	...	...	...	...	3
	Poultry	...	...	...	...	219
	Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	12
(iv)	<u>Food in Containers</u>					
	Meat	...	...	...	...	1,072
	Vegetables	...	...	...	...	942
	Milk	...	...	...	...	890
	Fruit	...	...	...	...	802
	Fish	...	...	...	...	57
(v)	<u>Other Miscellaneous Foods</u>					988

This is a reduction of 2,145 lbs. as compared with the figure for 1963.

Routine inspection of food exposed for sale was maintained throughout the year, but formal seizure of unfit food was not found necessary.

(d) LABORATORY EXAMINATIONS OF FOOD

Chemical and Bacteriological examinations of food are carried out on behalf of the Council, as occasion requires, at:-

<u>Article</u>	<u>Public Analyst's Comment</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Public Analyst's Comment</u>
Brandy Filled Chocolates	Genuine	Shrimp Flavoured Slices	Genuine
Sweetened Lemon Juice	Genuine but use of term "Sugar free" commented upon.	Sandwich Biscuits	"
		Whisky Liqueur Chocolates	" (13.3% Proof)
Diuromil	Genuine	Pepper Sauce	Genuine
Embrocation Stick	"	Chocolate Metercal Liquid	"
Antiseptic Cream	"	Double Cream	"
Actified Syrup	"	Low Fat Yogurt with Real Fruit	"
Eades Tonic	"	Chicken Curry	"
Ice Cream	"	Crabmeat	"
Ice Lolly	"	Groundnut Oil	"
Pure Ground Coffee	"	Orange Squash	"
Lime Jelly Marmalade	"	Lemon Juice	"
London Grill	"	Butter	"
Chicken & Ham Meat Paste	"	Clover Honey	"
		Strawberry Jam	"
Milk	Complaint from School re smell not justified.	Ice Lolly Syrup	"
		Beef Stock Cubes	"
Sweetened Grapefruit Juice	Genuine	Chicken Stock Cubes	"
Orange Juice with Sugar	"	Pork Sausages (Preservative)	" (65% Meat)
Ravioli in Tomato Sauce	"	Margarine	Genuine
Gin	" (70.2% Proof)	Instant Coffee	"
Beef Sausage	Genuine (64% meat)	Chocolate Wholemeal Biscuits	"
Worcestershire Sauce	Genuine	Milk (Informal)	Genuine on Gerber
Strawberry Jam	"	Milk (Informal)	" " "
Liver Pate	"	Orange Drink (Informal)	Genuine
Peeled Tomatoes	"	Flavoured Milk Drink	"
Honey	"	Full Strength Liqueur	"
Whisky	"	Chocolates	" (Filling 41% Proof Spirit)
Polish Salami	"		
French Garlic Sausage	"		
Garlic Vinegar	"		

Total Samples obtained - Foodstuffs : 43 Formal
1 Informal

.. .. . Drugs : 6 Formal

.. .. . Milks : 1 Formal
2 Informal

.. .. . Spirits : 2 Formal

Total : 55

At the present time the Hertfordshire County Council is the "Food and Drugs authority" in Welwyn Garden City for the purposes of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Adulteration is only one of the many provisions of the Act which make up the statutory duties of a "Food and Drugs authority". Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council will become the "Food and Drugs authority" if the next census, when published, shows that the population has attained 40,000 or more. It seems certain that this change over of responsibility will occur when the next census is published, bringing many more fresh duties and responsibilities on the Council's Public Health Department.

(f) COMPLAINTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC CONCERNING FOOD

During 1964 a total of twenty-two complaints were made to the Public Health Department. Six of these cases were found to be unjustified or were not confirmed. The remaining sixteen (of which eleven arose outside the district) were followed up by direct contact with the retailers and/or manufacturers, and, where necessary, information was also given to the Public Health Department of the local authority concerned.

In each case the complainant was informed of the result of the enquiries and the action taken. Most of the sixteen complaints which were confirmed did not justify the conclusion that the article complained of was legally "unfit for human consumption" but justified the conclusion that the article of food complained of was "not of the nature, or not of the substance, or not of the quality demanded" by the complainant as required by section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

The presence of a foreign body in food, such foreign body being sterile and harmless and not having affected the substance of the food, does not necessarily constitute an offence under this section, although the foreign body is not of the substance of the food; *Edwards v. Llaethdy Meirion, Ltd.* (1957), 107 L. Jo. 138. In this case, a summons had been preferred by the appellant against the respondents for that they unlawfully sold to the prejudice of the purchaser milk which was not of the substance demanded, in that the milk contained a milk bottle cap, contrary to s.2 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. It was proved that the cap was sterile and harmless and the milk was fit for human consumption and neither in substance nor in quality was affected by the presence of the cap. The justices dismissed the information on the ground that the substance of the milk was not affected by the cap. On appeal it was held that the justices' action was correct.

(g) VISITS MADE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTROLLING FOOD:

Visits to examine Meat and Other Foods	..	..	..	131
Visits to procure samples of Food (excluding milk)	..	..	..	31
Visits to procure samples of Milk	..	..	..	36
Visits re sale of Ice Cream and Lollies	..	..	..	51
Visits to Mobile Vehicles selling Ice Cream	..	..	..	38

Visits to Mobile Vehicles selling Food (excluding Ice Cream)	.. .. .	41
Visits to Milk Depots	.. .. .	16
Visits to Laboratories with samples of food	.. .. .	21

2. INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES (Where more than one principal trade is carried on at one premise, each such trade is separately recorded)

<u>Trades</u>	<u>No.in Town</u>	<u>No.of Visits made</u>
Building Site Canteens	3	5
Industrial "	20	43
School "	27	18
Cafes and Restaurants	12	59
Licensed Premises	16	31
Food Manufacturers	6	32
Butchers	20	142
Fishmongers	5	48
Grocers	20	228
Greengrocers	18	41
Confectioners	20	74
Miscellaneous Food Premises	17	10
Informal Notices	..	26
Notices complied with	..	26

Routine inspections of food premises continued throughout the year and complaints rightly made by the public when a malpractice was seen have been of great assistance to the department. In one case a food handler was serving both unwrapped vegetables and prepared meat products, and this was dealt with immediately following a complaint by an observant customer.

The huge variety of commodities sold in the modern food shop necessitates almost as much storage space as that required for display for sale, and this was not taken into account when many of the shops were designed, consequently conditions at the rear of some of the premises leave much to be desired.

One section of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act which has been of assistance in this matter is the section prohibiting the obstruction of passages and stairs, and retailers are now beginning to revise their system of ordering to achieve the maximum turnover with the minimum of stock. It is hoped that this will also prevent some of the complaints that arise when goods have been sold after their "shelf life" has expired.

Lack of maintenance found in some of the premises required informal action in a number of cases, and showed the need for regular checks in these premises. Hygiene posters and circulars were distributed to all the food premises in the town during the typhoid outbreak in the North, and canned goods stored in shops and canteens were thoroughly checked to ensure that none of the suspected batches were available for consumption.

3. MOBILE VEHICLES SELLING FOOD

During the year thirty-eight inspections were made of mobile vehicles selling ice cream and forty-one inspections were made of mobile vehicles selling other foods.

The requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations for these vehicles cover cleanliness and repair of the vehicles, lighting and, where there is open food for immediate consumption for sale, adequate washing and cleaning facilities. A dealer is also required to display his name and address on the vehicle. Infringements of these Regulations are usually dealt with informally when found and the vehicle is re-inspected within a few days of the initial inspection.

GENERAL, INCLUDING SUPERVISION OF FACTORIES AND RODENT CONTROL

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Number of Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
FACTORIES with Mechanical Power	180	20	0
FACTORIES without Mechanical Power	4	1	0
OTHER PREMISES under the Act	22	3	0
	<u>Totals 206</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>0</u>

2. DEFECTS FOUND

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Number of Defects</u>		<u>Number of offences in respect of which prosecutions were instituted</u>	
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred by H.M. Inspector</u>	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<u>Sanitary Conveniences, S.7.</u>				
Insufficient	1	1	0	0
Unsuitable or defective	21	21	2	0
Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0
	<u>22</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals	22	22	2	0

3. FACTORIES ACT, 1961

(a) Outworkers

The occupiers of two local factories distribute work to seven local out-workers. The local outwork is carried on in clean and satisfactory premises. No cause for complaint has arisen during the year. In addition twenty-two local out-workers are employed by firms whose premises are in London. In addition, fourteen out-workers are employed by a firm whose premises are in Cheshunt.

(b) Factories - General Information

The Factories Act, 1961, came into force on 1st April 1962, and repealed the Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959.

All factories in the town are of modern construction and have been built during the past forty-two years. The construction of the first factory in the town was commenced in 1922 and after completion was, and still is, occupied by Dawnays Limited.

Health conditions are generally satisfactory and infringements are usually of a minor nature.

Plans for new factories or involving alteration of existing factories are examined by the Public Health Department before they are approved.

The Council is empowered to reject the plans if they do not comply with Sections 37 or 43 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Where the plans submitted did not comply, amendments were informally negotiated with the proposers and compliance secured. Where there was no legal authority to reject the plans, but the erection or alteration contained in the plans was likely to give rise to contraventions of the Factories Act, 1961, the Public Health Act, 1936, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, this was pointed out to the proposers, and every endeavour made to secure prior compliance with these Acts by them.

4. RODENT CONTROL

(a) Administration

The Council is responsible for the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. A full-time Rodent Operative is employed. The new Poisons Regulation made under the Animals (Cruel Poisons) Act came into operation on Saturday, 26th October, 1963, under Statutory Instrument No. 1278 of 1963, since when it is illegal to use the common rat-and-mouse poisons, red squill and phosphorus, for destroying mammals of any description, or to use strychnine for destroying any mammals except moles. The department has not used red squill or phosphorus poisons for approximately five years. It is gratifying to know that there are organisations which are concerned with reducing the unnecessary suffering inflicted in destroying animals.

Unfortunately, states the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, the Order does not prohibit the extremely cruel fluorine poisons, such as 1080, one of which recently caused the death of a horse and 100 cats and dogs in Merthyr Tydfil and cattle at Smarden, Kent. They are still permitted, in spite of protests made by the Federation, who were active in promoting the Act. These fluorine poisons heighten sensibility so that a slight touch causes acute pain; cats and dogs show great distress, vomit, rush about frantically, and eventually die of suffocation.

(b) Rodent Destruction

Rats, mice or rats and mice, were found to be present on 186 premises. Details of the type of infestation found on those premises are as follows:-

	<u>No. of Premises</u>	<u>No. of Visits</u>
Rats	170	2,197
Mice	13	201
Rats and Mice	3	203
Totals	<u>186</u>	<u>2,601</u>

Details of the various types of premises found infested are as follows:-

	<u>Local Authority Property</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>Business and Industrial Premises</u>
No. of premises infested by Rats	2	141	27
No. of premises infested by Mice	-	5	8
No. of premises infested by Rats and Mice	-	-	3
Totals	2	146	38

Five hundred and seventy-nine visits were made to premises during the year in which neither the presence of rats nor mice was subsequently confirmed.

Details of visits paid to the various types of property whether they proved to be infested or not are as follows:-

				<u>Number of Visits</u>		
				<u>Rats</u>	<u>Mice</u>	<u>Rats & Mice</u>
Business and Commercial Premises	...	...	...	896	468	19
Local Authority Property (excluding houses)	...	...	...	69	5	-
All houses	...	...	...	1,776	96	2

The total of these visits was 3,331

Where premises are found to be infested, repeat treatments are carried out at intervals until the results show that all rats or mice which were present have been destroyed. Rats are infrequently found inside Welwyn Garden City houses. Eight such cases were dealt with during the year. Five houses were repaired to prevent future entry by rats.

(c) Chargeable Work.

Houses are treated free but a charge has to be made for rodent destruction at commercial and industrial premises. The charge is levied either by Contract or "Private Works" in respect of commercial and industrial premises. In either case the agreement of the occupier of such premises is obtained before the chargeable work is commenced. At the 31st December 1964, twenty-six firms had taken out twenty-eight contracts in respect of thirty-two premises, the income from these contracts then being at the rate of £215 a year. The income from "Private Works" during the year was £48. 3. 7d.

(d) Sewers

No evidence of infestation by rats in the Council's sewers, which convey foul water, was found during the year.

5. INSECT PESTS

During the year, one hundred and five complaints were received, of which two on inspection were not confirmed. Two hundred and ten visits were made to destroy the pests found present in the remaining one hundred and three premises.

The table gives an analysis of the pests destroyed by the staff of the Public Health Department and the number of visits made by them to the infested premises for that purpose.

<u>Pest</u>	<u>No. of premises affected</u>	<u>No. of Visits made</u>
Wasps	66	126
Bees	11	18
Fleas	5	15
Flies	4	10
Bed Bugs	4	7
Mosquitoes	3	11
Bluebottles	2	3
Mites	2	2
Beetles	1	3
Silver Fish	2	3
Earwigs	1	4
Crickets	1	1
Woodworm	1	3
Maggots	1	3
Unidentified	1	1
	<u>105</u>	<u>210</u>

In addition to the foregoing, insect powder was supplied free to occupiers where pressure of work or the circumstances of the particular case made personal attention either not possible or unnecessary. Eighty-five occupiers were supplied with the free issue. The Council has instructed that a charge of five shillings shall be made where visits are made to a house to destroy ants.

HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical
Officer of Health and of the
Public Health Inspector for 1964.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

G. R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S. (London) M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

C. A. BAILEY, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

J. CABOURNE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

District Public Health Inspector

R. EDLIN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Student Public Health Inspector

P. C. WARD

Public Health Assistant and Rodent Operative:

L.A. LAWRENCE

Clerks:

Mrs. J. BANKS

A.A.W. CALLABY

HATFIELD SECTION

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	21,945
Population (mid year 1964) estimated by the Registrar General	42,720
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1965	12,600
Rateable Value of the District, 31st March, 1965	£2,628,011
Product of a penny rate 1964/65	£10,860

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	149	168	317
LIVE BIRTHS:			
Number	345	347	692
Rate per 1,000 population			16.2
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS PER CENT OF TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS			3.3
STILLBIRTHS			
Number	10	8	18
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			25.3
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS			710
INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under 1 year)	11	5	16
INFANT MORTALITY RATES			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			23.0
Legitimate " " " " Legitimate live births			22.4
Illegitimate " " " " Illegitimate " "			43.4
NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)			21.7
EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)			18.8
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)			43.6
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Including abortion):			
Number of deaths			-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			-

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the population at mid 1964 was 42,720 compared with 42,310 at mid 1963. The natural increase of population i.e. excess of births over deaths was 375 compared with 454 the previous year.

Deaths

No major factor affected the death rate for the District over the year. The following table gives the main causes of death, Heart Disease, Cerebral Vascular accidents and Cancer accounting for two thirds of the total.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average past five years</u>
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	-	1	1	2
Cancer	26	25	51	59
Cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis	22	46	68	63
Leukaemia	-	2	2	1
Heart Diseases	49	50	99	91
Other circulatory diseases	7	3	10	14
Pneumonia	6	10	16	12
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	14	3	17	16
Diabetes	1	2	3	1
Nephritis	1	-	1	2
Ulcer of stomach etc.	-	1	1	3
Pregnancy	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformation	2	1	3	2
Road Traffic and other accidents	6	2	8	10
Suicide	1	3	4	2
Other defined causes	14	19	33	27
	149	168	317	

Deaths from Cancer: Total 51

Respiratory tract	11	Alimentary tract and liver	11
Breast	4	Uterus	-
	Unclassified	25	

The total of eight deaths from road traffic and other accidents is an improvement on the high figure (23) of the previous year. The other causes conform in totals to the average of recent years. Of the 99 deaths from heart disease 28 were due to coronary thrombosis. Total deaths from cancer were a little lower but of the 51 deaths the primary growth in 11 instances was situated in the lungs or bronchus and the same number in the alimentary tract. There were no maternal deaths during the year.

Comparison of Annual Rates:

The following table shows the Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1960 with the corresponding figures for England and Wales for 1964.

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Births	Standardised Birth Rate	Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	Standard Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
1960	19.6	0.86	16.8	8.5	1.22	10.4	16.6
1961	19.4	0.84	16.3	8.2	1.22	10.0	3.8
1962	18.8	0.83	15.6	8.2	1.33	10.9	7.7
1963	19.5	0.91	17.7	8.7	1.23	10.2	29.2
1964	16.2	0.91	14.7	7.4	1.32	9.8	23.0
England and Wales 1964			18.4			11.3	20.0

Births

After adjustment for inward and outward transferrable births a net total of 692 live births was registered in the District during the year, a fall of 131 on the previous year. The adjusted birth rate shows a marked fall to 14.7 per 1,000 of the population compared with 17.7 for the previous year.

Death Rate

The adjusted death rate of 9.8 per 1,000 of the population approximates closely to the average of previous years and compares favourably with the national rate.

Infant Mortality

A total of sixteen infant deaths were registered during the year giving an infant mortality rate of 23.0, a little above the average and the rate for the County. The causes of death were as follows:-

<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Cause</u>
20 mins.	M	Prematurity
1 hour	M	Neo natal asphyxia
2 hours	M	Neo natal asphyxia
4 hours	M	Prematurity
6 hours	F	Prematurity
6 hours	F	Prematurity
9 hours	M	Prematurity
14 hours	F	Prematurity
1 day	M	Diaphragmatic Hernia
1 day	F	Cardiac failure
1 day	M	Hyaline Membrane Disease
1 day	M	Pneumonia
2 days	M	Prematurity
5 days	F	Meningitis
1 week	M	Tentorial Tear
7 weeks	M	Congenital heart disease

All the deaths occurred in hospital except the first, due of course to the selection of "At risk" deliveries for hospital confinement. Prematurity accounted for almost half these infant deaths.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following notifications of infectious disease were received from medical practitioners during the year:-

Diphtheria	Nil	Dysentery	37
Whooping Cough	7	Pneumonia	3
Measles	151	Food Poisoning	Nil
Scarlet Fever	4	Puerperal Pyrexia	2
Poliomyelitis	Nil	Typhoid	1
Acute Encephalitis	2	Paratyphoid	1

A further year of freedom from diphtheria and poliomyelitis results from the maintenance of a satisfactory level of immunisation of young children against these diseases. The notifications of typhoid and paratyphoid relate to individual imported infection following holidays on the Continent. Investigation of the contacts of the case of typhoid fever revealed a symptomless carrier of the disease. The case responded well to treatment with chloromphenicol and the carrier remains free from typhoid organisms a year after an intensive course of treatment with ampicillin under the supervision of Dr. R. T. D. Emond, Clinical Consultant in infectious diseases.

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning brought to the notice of the department, the notifications of dysentery relating to scattered cases of gastro enteritis of mixed bacterial and virus origin. These all responded rapidly to treatment by the medical practitioners.

Notifications of whooping cough and scarlet fever were few, mainly mild cases not related to school attendance.

Tuberculosis

The register of notifications was reviewed with the Chest Physicians and County Medical Officer of Health, the number of patients being reduced from 238 to 231 at the end of 1964.

Eight new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified by the Chest Physicians, giving an attack rate of 0.19 per 1,000 for the year. In addition 3 persons under the supervision of the Chest Physicians, transferred into the District from the London area. There was one death from pulmonary tuberculosis during the year.

The light mobile X-ray unit visits the Queensway Health Centre each Tuesday afternoon for persons referred by the local medical practitioners and arrangements were made for a visit by the major mass radiography unit early in 1965.

A total of 402 children received B.C.G. vaccination under arrangements made by the School Health Service during the year.

There is the closest consultation with Dr. Edwards, Chest Physician and Miss McMullen, Health Visitor on the housing and general welfare of tuberculous cases and I am indebted to the Housing Committee who are always prepared to give careful consideration to my recommendations for these persons.

Housing

Steady progress was maintained during 1964 in the transfer of families from the prefabricated post war bungalows, and in the special schemes of flats and maisonettes. I am indebted to Mr. E. W. Pickering, Housing Manager, for the following observations and summary of progress during the year.

At the end of 1964, 49 of the 73 flats and maisonettes under construction at 'Northfield' had been completed and were occupied by families from the aluminium bungalows, 51 of which had been vacated for demolition. Some of these people had lived in their very comfortable homes for some 16 years and others for lesser periods, but nearly all of them left with, quite naturally, some regret and sadness coupled with a determination to embrace changed environment in the more modern permanent traditional type of dwellings provided. A great wrench for many but one which to their credit they have coped with admirably.

Two newly erected pensioners bungalows in Dixons Hill Road, Welham Green, of excellent design and appearance, provided suitable sized homes for two tenants of Council houses which were vacated in favour of larger families from the waiting list.

Delays occasioned by building materials in short supply and shortage of labour held up progress with the small scheme of flats and maisonettes in Birchwood Close/Avenue and the Warden scheme in Burfield Close, Wellfield Road.

The waiting list of applicants for housing accommodation was reduced in 1964 by a net figure of 81, and at the end of the year totalled 871.

Applications at 31.12.63		952	
Families rehoused	110)	221	off list
Applicants finding own accommodation	111)		
		<hr/>	
		731	
New applications registered as at 31.12.64		140	
		<hr/>	
		871	
		<hr/>	

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER:

(a) Public Supply

Almost the entire district is supplied by the Lee Valley Water Company mains, the exception being a few private wells and bores representing approximately 0.6% of the total number of dwellings, details of which are summarised overleaf.

Summaries of bacteriological results taken by the Company are furnished to the Health Dept. regularly and are satisfactory in every respect.

A Public Analyst's report on a Chemical Sample taken from a Hatfield main by this department is quoted below:-

Chemical Examination

Reaction pH 7.1

Parts per million

Free and Saline Ammonia	0.05
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.15
Oxygen absorbed	0.20
Nitrite Nitrogen	NIL
Nitrate "	8.0

Hardness (as Calcium Carbonate)

Temporary	184
Permanent	66
Chlorine	40

Total Solids (dried at 140°C.) 433

Copper	Not detectable
Lead	" "
Zinc	" "

After general remarks on the results reported the Analyst says:- "I am pleased to be able to report that this water complies in all respects with the requirements of a supply intended for use both for drinking and other domestic purposes."

Signed..... J. D. Curzon,
Public Analyst,
87 & 89 Aldgate Street, London, E.C.3.

(b) Private Supplies

The number of private supplies in the rural district is now 17, supplying 65 dwellings by well or borehole. Three of these seventeen, however, are only supplementary to a main supply also available, so that the number of domestic premises entirely dependent on wells etc. is now only 43.

Frequent samples of these supplies are submitted to Hill End Hospital Laboratory and following are the results:-

Water Samples. 1964.

	<u>No. of Wells, etc.</u>	<u>No. of dwellings served</u>	<u>No. of Samples taken</u>	<u>Satis- factory</u>	<u>Unsatis- factory</u>
Astwick	1	2	3	3	-
Coopers Green	2	6/1	6	6	-
Mill Green	*2	1/1	4	3	1
North Mymms Park	4	11/5/2/1	24	16	8
Northaw	*1	17	-	-	-
Roe Hyde	2	6/1	10	6	4
Stanborough	3	1/1/1	2	2	-
Symondshyde	1	6	3	3	-
Woodside	*1	2	2	2	-
	17	65	54	41	13
Lemsford (Cress Beds)	1	-	3	3	-

*Also connected to mains, but still making use of private supply for some purposes.

Remarks

During January 1964, all of the remaining fourteen houses in Stanborough previously consuming well supply were connected to the Water Company main, thanks mainly to the extremely hard winter of 1962 with all its attendant complications - frozen pipes and large overhead tank reservoir put out of action and bringing to light other defects in the system generally.

The results noted for the North Mymms Park supply do not show the position in proper perspective. An automatic chlorinating plant is used at the large underground reservoir, but the chlorine containers have to be replenished weekly, and because of annual holidays this operation was not carried out on schedule. Unfortunately, having found one unsatisfactory sample, check samples were taken at other points throughout this extensive system with similar results before the real cause was discovered.

The Roe Hyde supply at source (deep bore) is of excellent quality but at some intermediate stage there was pollution, believed due to birds having access to large high level tank/reservoirs.

(c) Standpipe Supplies

One standpipe situated in the rear garden of No.2 Edgell Cottage, Holwell, Essendon, and supplying well water for domestic use to the cottage, was abolished. The elderly tenant was re-housed, the property sold and with the help of an Improvement Grant, all modern amenities have now been provided.

Only four standpipes remain in the district, three are in the Hatfield Parish, and one in Northaw Parish. Consideration has been given to each, and either conversion or closure of the properties will ensue, but all are elderly tenants and re-housing in the same locality at present is difficult. All are paying extremely low rents.

HOUSING:

Slum Clearance

This heading does not aptly describe the circumstances existing in this district, since there are no slum areas remaining, although there are a few individual dwellings still to be considered.

Although six terraced houses representing 10 - 20 Dellsome Lane, Welham Green, were dealt with as a Clearance Area, subsequently to be purchased by agreement by the Council and closed in 1962/3, they were not demolished until the year under review (1964).

Nos. 1 & 2, Old Fiddle Cottages - occupied as one unit - were represented as unfit in 1962, and demolition took place in March 1964.

Following is a brief summary of the events of 1964 under this heading:-

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a) Houses demolished as a result of informal or formal procedure under Section 17. Housing Act 1957 | 8 |
| (b) Unfit houses closed | NIL |

Explanation of above:-

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| (a) 10 - 20 (even) Dellsome Lane, Welham Green | - informally 6 |
| 1 & 2 Old Fiddle Cottages, College Lane, Hatfield | - formally 2 |

Rent Act 1957 - Certificates of Disrepair

Two applications from tenants for Certificates of Disrepair were received during the year. One Certificate was issued, and the owner of the other property gave a formal undertaking to do all the specified repairs listed by the tenant.

One other Certificate was approved and issued by Council in January where the application was considered in December, 1963.

The total number of applications received for Certificates of Disrepair since 1957 is sixty-one.

Romany Caravan Site - Mill Green.

In June a small site housing five caravans whose occupants were of "Romany origin", was put into operation at Mill Green. The venture is financed by the Barbara Cartland - Lord Onslow Trust, but designed and planned by the Rural District Council, and visited by the Health Department frequently.

The amenities consist of a brick built ablution block, comprising two W.C.'s and a deep glazed sink with main water supply for women and one W.C., one urinal and deep glazed sink with main water supply for men. Drainage is to a septic tank. The occupants have kept the site tidy and well maintained during the first several months of occupancy and have established lawns, flowerbeds, pathways and fences to their individual plots. In general this has been a great success and a credit to all, and it is to be hoped that it will remain so with the passage of time. Contrary to expectations, there have been no breakages or misuse of sinks and sanitary fittings - as yet.

Holwell Site for Gipsies - Hertford Road.

During the year the Herts County Council established a site for approximately 25 caravans within the rural district. The amenities consist of three standpipes and eighteen elsan closets, which, together with refuse bins are emptied by this authority at regular weekly intervals.

The site was both a necessity and experimental, but to date it has certainly proved a success, and is a very great improvement on conditions immediately prior to the move, bearing in mind the appalling conditions which existed for $\frac{3}{4}$ mile on the Hertford Road verges earlier in 1964.

This camp has attracted official visitors from other districts, including neighbouring Counties and it is to be hoped that the trend will develop whereby native itinerants will be able to settle, with of course a modicum of discipline and conditions exercised by the local authority.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND PREMISES

MEAT:

Inspection of Meat at Slaughterhouse

During the year 48 visits were made to the Slaughterhouse at White Lodge Farm, Bell Bar, when 704 pig carcasses and offal were examined, i.e. 100% of animals killed.

Following is a list of reasons for condemnations:-

Number of Pigs killed and inspected 704

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned	NIL
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	4
Percentage of the number inspected with Tuberculosis	0.56%

All Diseases other than Tuberculosis

Whole carcasses condemned	NIL
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	179

Reason for condemnation - including parts of offal

Heads	- Tuberculosis	4
	- Abscessed	1
Livers	- Spotted	32
	- Adhesions	3
	- Parasitic	1
Hearts	- Pericarditis	7
	- Pleurisy	1
Lungs	- Congestion	109
	- Pneumonia	5
	- Pleurisy	9
Kidneys	- Cysts	4
Carcase trimmings	- Abscessed	1
	- Hernia	1
Belly	- Injury	1
		<hr/> 179 <hr/>

ICE CREAM SAMPLING

The following samples of Ice Cream were taken during the year:-

<u>Place of Sampling</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>		<u>Unsatisfactory</u>		<u>Total</u>
	Provisional Grade (1)	Provisional Grade (2)	Provisional Grade (3)	Provisional Grade (4)	
Mobile Vehicles	2	1	1	1	5
Shops	5	2	2	-	9
Cafes etc.	3	-	-	-	3
<hr/>					
	10	3	3	1	17
<hr/>					

STOOL SPECIMENS

The number of faecal specimens collected and taken to the laboratory at the request of the M.O.H. and local doctors, following enteric group of upsets, increased during the year to 210.

CORNED BEEF

As a result of a number of Ministry of Health circulars incidental to the Aberdeen outbreak, all food premises in the district were visited with a view to tracing 6 lb. tins of corned beef, of Argentine origin, bearing certain serial numbers. Ninety-nine visits were made and forty-five such tins were found, impounded and returned to the suppliers as instructed.

FOOD SPECIMENS

For a variety of reasons the following food specimens were taken to the laboratory for Bacteriological report:-

Pork Luncheon Meat	5	Duck Eggs	50
Tinned Pilchards	1	Corned Beef	11
Frozen Prawns	3	Tuna Fish	1

Duck eggs are sometimes infected with Salmonellae organisms - a ratio of 1 in 200 has been quoted both in this Country and on the Continent - and following minor but prolonged symptoms in children frequently consuming eggs from ducks on their home ground, 50 were sent, over some weeks, to the laboratory as a follow up, but no proof was forthcoming to incriminate these suspect products!

Food Condemned at Shops, Stores, Warehouses, etc. and Meat other than at Slaughterhouse

	<u>Tins or</u> <u>packets</u>	<u>lbs.</u>		<u>Tins or</u> <u>packets</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
Fruit	1,054	1,503	Cream	4	2
Vegetables	330	276	Preserves	5	10
Fish	215	121	Frozen Food	416	163
Fruit Juices	92	116	Wet Fish	-	2,015
Soups	129	115	Beef	-	1,957
Corned Beef	44	64	Mutton	-	317
Ham	4	27	Pork	-	432
Luncheon Meat	83	310	Poultry	-	7
Tinned Meat	22	51	Kidneys	-	32
Baby Food	107	28	Liver	-	60
Milk	278	198	Bacon	-	13
Rice	51	51			

TRANSPORT CAFES - WASHING UP METHODS

Surprise visits were made to each of the six busy Transport Cafes sited on the A.1. and the A.1000 with a view to swabbing utensils and crockery after washing-up.

Following is a summary of results:-

41 plates, 41 cups, 41 forks, 6 spoons and 6 knives were swabbed and sent to the laboratory.

Assuming the acceptable standard as being 100 organisms per article, 8 of the 135 samples were unsatisfactory but the remainder generally were good and in many cases excellent.

It was apparent that in some kitchens either sterilising agents and detergents were not being used or that water sufficiently hot was not available. One kitchen in fact was found not to be using either of the above additives. The proprietor was advised on this matter and the following laboratory results illustrate the effect:-

Colonies per Utensil
After Washing-up

<u>Prior to use of additives 2.3.64</u>			<u>After use of additives 16.3.64</u>		
(a)	1,200	per utensil	NIL	per utensil	
(b)	496	" "	NIL	" "	
(c)	148	" "	NIL	" "	

NUISANCES ABATED: CONTRAVENTIONS AND DEFECTS REMEDIED

<u>Houses</u>		<u>Total</u>
Roofs RN or RP	19	
Chimney Stacks Rebuilt or RP	5	
R. Water Gutters/Pipes RN or RP	54	
Walls Repointed or Rendered	23	
Wall or Ceiling Plaster RN or RP	61	
Floors RN or RP	25	
Windows or Doors RN or RP	39	
Fireplaces RN or RP	21	
Cooking Ranges RN or RP	7	
Stairs RN or RP: Rails fixed	13	
Sub-floor Ventilation Provided	7	
Dampness Abated	25	
Additional Lighting Provided	23	
Additional Ventilation Provided	33	
Rooms Cleansed or Redecorated	46	
Foodstores Provided or RP	31	
Yards & Passages Paved or RP	8	
Earth Removed from Walls	2	
		442

Sanitary Fittings etc.

Internal Water Supplies Provided	5
Repair to Water Supplies	31
Sinks Provided or Replaced	42
Waste Pipes RN or RP	51
Baths & Basins Provided or RP	41
Hot Water Supplies Provided	50
New W.C. Compartments	45

W.C. Compartments Rebuilt or RP	15	
W.C. Compartments Cleansed	8	
W.C. Pedestals Provided or RN	48	
W.C. Cisterns Provided or RP	60	
Other Repairs to W.C's	7	
Pailclosets Abolished	1	
New Drains Constructed	63	
Drains RP or Reconstructed	23	
Drains Connected to Sewer	1	
Insp. Chambers Provided or RP	49	
Drains Cleared	23	
Drains Tested	48	
Other Drain Repairs	6	
Cesspools Constructed	8	
Cesspools Cleansed or Repaired	24	
Cesspools Abolished	4	653

General

New Dustbins Provided	12	
Offensive Accumulations Removed	7	
Animals - Nuisance Abated	5	
Rooms Disinfected	2	
Rooms Disinfested	6	
Dirty Premises Cleansed	4	36

Other Premises

Shops	10	
Other Food Premises	12	22

INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA:

The following is a summary of the visits made by the Public Health Inspectors during the year:-

<u>Public Health Acts</u>		<u>Total</u>
Complaints investigated	260	
Houses, Primary Inspections	98	
Re-visits, re. above	196	
Moveable Dwellings	252	
Infectious Diseases	337	
Schools	44	
Cinemas, Public Halls and Clubs	50	
Workplaces and Offices	6	
Water Supplies	153	
Rivers, Streams and Ditches	50	

Drainage	337	
Cesspools & Septic Tanks	169	
Dirty and Verminous Premises	62	
Flies, Insects, etc.	35	
Stables and Piggeries	69	
Keeping of Animals	73	
Vacant Lands and Dumps	85	
Smoke Observation	95	
Boilerhouses and Furnaces	36	
Sundry Nuisances including Noise	104	
Air Pollution Records	699	
Stool Specimens Collected	117	
		3,327

(Note: 57 Informal Notices under the Public Health Acts were served during the year).

Housing Acts

Houses, Primary Inspections	150	
Re-visits re. above	381	
Overcrowding	14	
Improvement Grants	376	
Certificates of Disrepair	34	
		955

(Note: 47 Informal Notices under the Housing Act, 1957 were served during the year).

Factories Act

Factories with Power	123	
Factories without Power	8	131

Food and Drugs Act

Slaughterhouses	56
Butchers Shops	141
Food Preparing Rooms	131
Fishmongers and Poulterers	52
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	86
Grocers and Other Food Shops	243
Fried Fish Shops	16
Bakehouses and Bakers Shops	32
Licensed Premises and Clubs	101
Restaurants and kitchens	276
Factory Canteens	40
School Canteens	31
Public Market and Food Stalls	311
Other Food Premises	66
Food Inspection	135
Dairies and Milk Shops	8
Ice Cream Premises and Vehicles	49
Water Cress Beds	6

Path Lab.	106	
Transport Cafes	<u>7</u>	1,893

(Note: 95 Informal Notices were served under the Food and Drugs Act during the year).

Shops Acts

Inspections	10	
Mobile Shops	61	
Hairdressing Establishments	<u>25</u>	96

Animal Boarding Establishments Act

Inspections	<u>18</u>	18
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Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act

Inspections	<u>339</u>	339
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(Note: 23 Informal Notices were served under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act during the year).

HAIRDRESSING ESTABLISHMENTS

Attention was directed to Hatfield Hairdressing Saloons during the year. It is possible to spread infection to scalp and skin via razors, clippers, etc., although this should not of course be exaggerated.

The premises generally are clean, well appointed and well maintained, but the prime object of attention was focussed on methods of cleaning and sterilisation of clippers, combs, scissors, etc. Occasions do arise when the Hairdresser is reluctant to cut a clients hair for obvious reasons but it is difficult to refuse, and thus the need for sterilisation must be conceded.

In a brief operation 30 swabs of utensils were taken and sent to the laboratory, 25 were satisfactory and 5 unsatisfactory. Some of the former were extremely good, but of the latter four were very poor. The results were discussed with the occupiers and following tests carried out with sterilising cabinets - generating vapourised formaldehyde - a number have since been installed.

The fact that the public health department carried out this check had good effect, the proprietors were co-operative and keen to know the results of laboratory tests, and I hope some improvement will be maintained.

NOISE

An unusual but perhaps not unexpected problem of modern society arose during the year, caused by a teenage beat group holding weekly practices during the evening, to the annoyance of adjacent elderly persons. Unfortunately the venue for practice was a small hall, mainly of corrugated iron structure, separated by a few feet from a terrace of cottages.

The reaction of neighbours was interesting, some persons were driven frantic, while others were not concerned - a matter of tolerance - however, by more selective letting and timing, the problem appears to have been solved by good co-operation of all parties concerned, only after some weeks of endeavour.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Following is a summary of duties carried out under the above Act:-

Number of Factories on Register	...	...	...	...	...	117
Number of Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	131
Number of Notices served as a result of Notifications from H.M. Inspector of Factories	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	8

Defects Found

Want of Cleanliness	...	...	...	...	...	1
Unsuitable Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	6

Factories

With mechanical power where Section 7 enforced	...	...	...	...	...	112
Without mechanical power	...	...	...	...	...	5

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

The main provisions of this new legislation came into force in August 1964. In common with the great majority of other districts only 50% of shop keepers and occupiers of offices registered their premises as required, by the determined date, so that the public health inspectors had themselves to round up the remainder. The total number in this area proved to be 330. This figure does not include Factory Offices, Schools, Railway Premises or Council Offices, which are the responsibility of H.M. Inspector of Factories.

The purpose of the Act is to secure satisfactory conditions for office workers in respect of floor space, lighting, ventilation, temperature, first aid equipment, drinking water, washing facilities, sanitary conveniences, etc.

Following is a summary of registrations, general inspections, and numbers of persons employed, as required by the Ministry of Labour for annual report:-

<u>Class of Premises</u>	<u>Number of premises registered during year</u>	<u>Total number of registered premises at end of year</u>	<u>Number of registered premises receiving general inspection</u>
Offices	89	89	13
Retail Shops	193	193	21
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	9	9	-
Catering Establishments open to the public, Canteens	38	38	1
Fuel Storage Depots	1	1	-
TOTALS	330	330	35

<u>Class of Workplace</u>	<u>Number of persons employed</u>
Offices	749
Retail Shops	857
Wholesale departments, Warehouses	109
Catering establishments open to public	286
Canteens	43
Fuel Storage Depots	3
TOTAL	2,047
Total Males	915
Total Females	1,132

None of the premises visited complied in every respect with the requirements, this is not surprising because some of the minor provisions i.e., thermometers and listed contents of first aid boxes, are quite new, and most occupiers were unaware of these smaller details.

In such cases a notice is served, necessitating a re-visit and in view of other commitments it is anticipated that a general survey of all the premises will take 3 years to complete.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

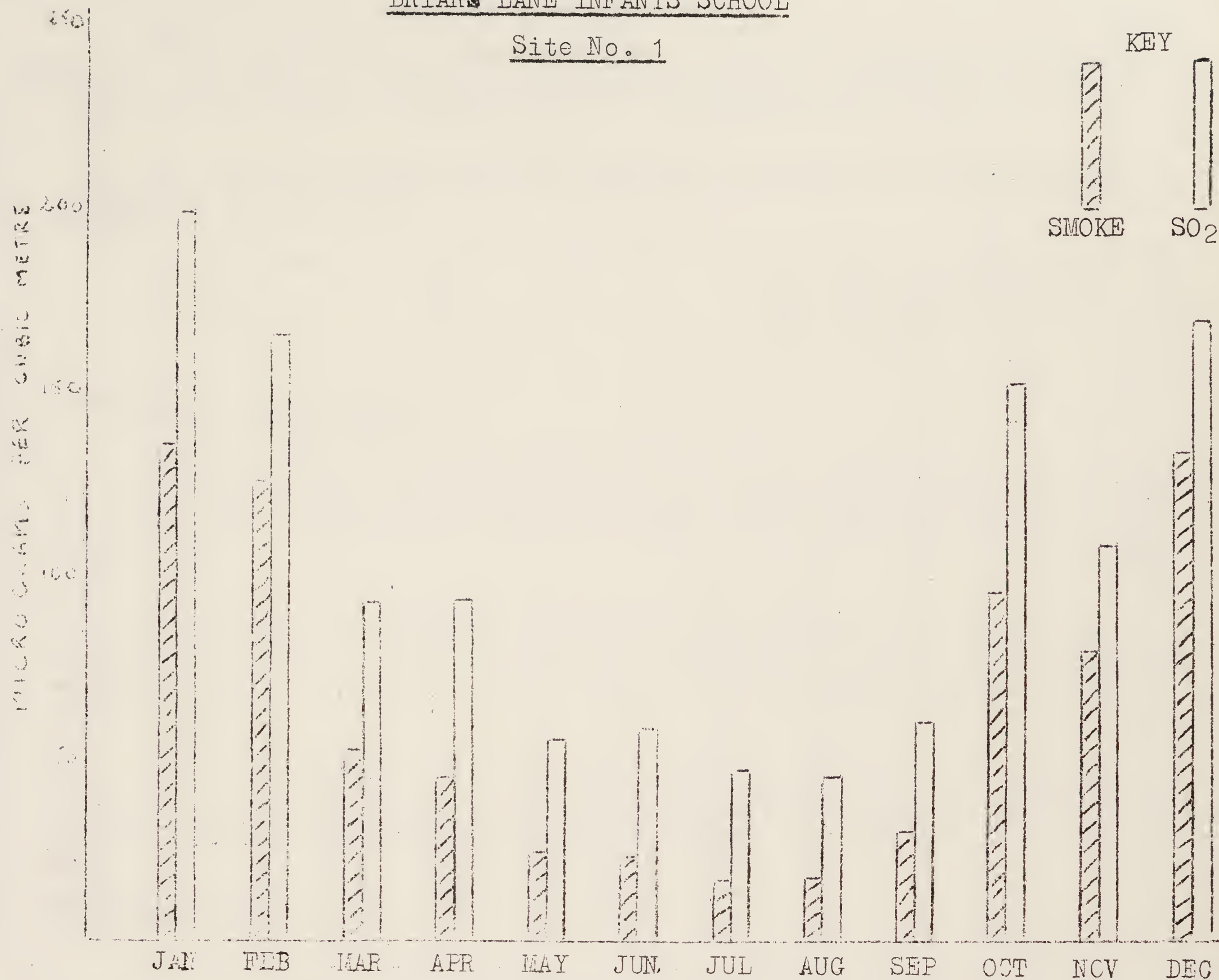
Smoke & SO₂ Recording Stations..

In October 1963, two apparatus were set up in Hatfield at (a) Briars Lane Infants School and (b) St. Michaels Church, Birchwood. Daily visits are made to record readings. The first full calendar year recordings are set out in the following tables:-

MONTHLY AVERAGES OF SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE

BRIARS LANE INFANTS SCHOOL

Site No. 1





1964	SMOKE			SO ₂			SMOKE /SO ₂ RATIO
	Average for Month	Highest Daily	Lowest Daily	Average for Month	Highest Daily	Lowest Daily	
JAN	135	525	25	198	596	69	.68
FEB	125	406	15	166	417	24	.75
MAR	52	142	17	93	252	35	.56
APR IL	44	169	13	93	246	41	.47
MAY	23	50	6	55	106	30	.42
JUNE	22	77	11	57	136	29	.39
JULY	17	28	6	45	78	17	.38
AUG	18	53	7	44	79	17	.41
SEPT	30	71	10	60	138	23	.50
OCT	94	196	11	153	319	46	.62
NOV	78	176	6	109	252	45	.72
DEC	133	408	12	170	478	52	.78

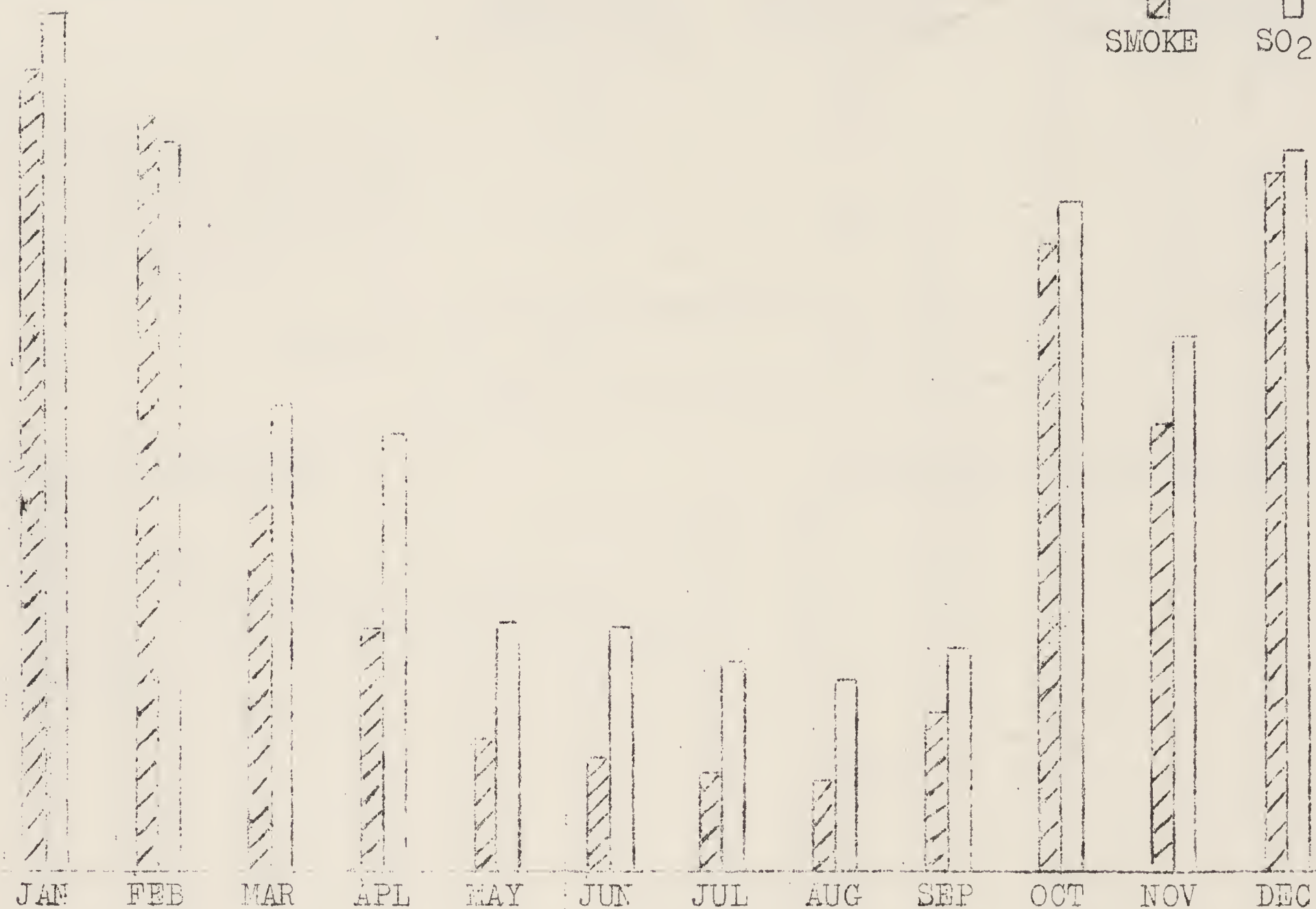
Figures in micro-grams per cubic metre

MONTHLY AVERAGES OF SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE

ST. MICHAELS, BIRCHWOOD

Site No. 2

KEY
 SMOKE
 SO2



1964	SMOKE			SO2			SMOKE /SO2 RATIO
	Average for Month	Highest Daily	Lowest Daily	Average for Month	Highest Daily	Lowest Daily	
JAN	179	633	41	191	593	75	.94
FEB	169	557	43	163	332	66	1.04
MAR	83	185	35	104	256	52	.80
APRIL	54	221	14	97	232	41	.56
MAY	29	54	18	56	88	30	.52
JUNE	26	80	1	55	119	17	.47
JULY	22	39	7	48	84	24	.46
AUG	21	64	7	43	72	23	.49
SEPT	36	80	14	51	93	30	.71
OCT	140	290	23	150	302	44	.93
NOV	99	207	30	119	266	62	.83
DEC	156	448	28	160	461	57	.97

Figures in micro-grams per cubic metre

HOUSING ACTS - IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Twenty applications for Improvement Grant were approved during the year. Two were in respect of Standard Grant and eighteen in respect of Discretionary Grant. Eight applied to tenanted houses (40%).

The following amenities were provided in connection with schemes completed during 1964:-

Waterclosets	26	Hot Water Systems	26
Baths	24	Wash Hand Basins	26
Food Stores	23	Fuel Stores	11

Improvement Areas Survey

Following Ministry directive in Circular No.53/64 a housing survey of the district was carried out during the latter part of the year, with a view to the selection of potential improvement areas for further consideration.

831 houses were surveyed, of which 475 lacked one or more of the standard amenities. Sixteen potential Improvement Areas, representing groups of houses varying in number from 2 to 131, are at present under consideration.

Current shortages of labour and building materials and financial considerations are factors which must inevitably be taken into account in connection with major schemes of this nature.

Triennial reinspections

Triennial visits are made by the Public Health Inspectors to all dwellings for which grants have been made since the scheme first came into operation, to ascertain that the properties are being maintained satisfactorily in accordance with the Housing Acts.

During the year 84 such visits were made and, where appropriate, owners were required to carry out repairs of a minor nature.

RODENT CONTROL

During the year 365 properties were found to be infested with rats or mice. The treatment at private dwellings is a free service, but a charge is made for all visits to trade and industrial premises.

Thirty-seven farms and similar premises signed agreements with the Council for regular monthly treatments, the value of which exceeded £440. p.a.

As usual the older sewer systems in Essendon and Old Hatfield were baited with poison in the Spring and Autumn at manhole points. All other systems appear to be free of infestation.

Following is a brief summary of work carried out very ably by Mr. Lawrence:-

	<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>Agri- cultural</u>	<u>Business etc.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Properties found to be RAT infested	7	293	34	44	378
Properties found to be MOUSE infested	-	14	6	7	27

The number of visits made by the rodent officer greatly exceeds the number of premises treated, since each time a house is treated, neighbouring properties are also visited to determine the area affected. This figure is always difficult to record, but is certainly approaching 2,000.

INSECT PESTS

The following pest complaints were dealt with during the year:-

Ants	22	Cluster Flies	4
Silver Fish	1	Wasps Nests	71
Woodworm	37	Mites	1
Fleas	7	Bed Bugs	3
Cockroaches	2	Mosquitos	1
Black Beetles	1	Carpet Beetles	1

Apart from rodents the biggest demand from ratepayers in the pest section is for the immediate elimination of wasps nests, and it is surprising that in spite of a "long" summer in 1964 only 71 requests were received and dealt with, compared with 197 in 1963.

WELWYN RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical
Officer of Health and of the
Public Health Inspector for 1964

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

G. R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S. (London), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector:

P.B. HAWLEY, M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Surveyor and Public Health Inspector:

D.N. SIBLEY, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk:

A. A. W. CALLABY.

WELLYN SECTION

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	5,232
Population (mid year 1964 estimated by the Registrar General)	7,240
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1965	2,362
Rateable value of the District, 31st March, 1965	£319,473
Net product of a penny rate 1964/65	£1,262

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	38	23	61
LIVE BIRTHS			
Number	64	74	138
Rate per 1,000 population			19.0
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS PER CENT OF TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS			2.7
STILLBIRTHS			
Number	1	-	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			7.2
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS	65	74	139
INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under 1 year)	-	1	1
INFANT MORTALITY RATES			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			7.2
Legitimate " " " " Legitimate live births			7.5
Illegitimate " " " " Illegitimate " "			-
NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)			-
EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)			-
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (Still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)			7.2
MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion):			
Number of deaths			Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			Nil

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the population at mid 1964 was 7,240, compared with 7,130 at mid 1963. The natural increase of population, i.e. excess of births over deaths was 77 compared with 88 the previous year.

Deaths

There were a total of 61 deaths in the District compared with 51 during the previous year. The following table gives the main causes:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average past five years</u>
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-
Cancer	9	2	11	10
Cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis	4	4	8	7
Heart Diseases	16	7	23	20
Other circulatory disease	2	2	4	4
Leukaemia	1	-	1	-
Pneumonia	1	3	4	3
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	2	-	2	2
Ulcer of Stomach	-	1	1	-
Diabetes	-	-	-	-
Nephritis	-	1	1	-
Congenital Malformation	-	1	1	-
Road Traffic Accidents	1	-	1	2
Suicide	-	-	-	-
Other defined causes	2	2	4	6
<hr/>				
	38	23	61	
<hr/>				

Heart Disease, Cancer and Cerebral Vascular Accidents the principal causes of death in the elderly account for two thirds of the total. The other causes conformed closely to the average over previous years. Once again I am pleased to report no maternal deaths or deaths from tuberculosis, but three men died from lung cancer.

Deaths from Cancer

Total 11

Respiratory	3	Breast	-
Alimentary tract and liver	4	Uterus	-

Unclassified 4

Comparison of Annual Rates:

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Births	Standardised Birth Rate	Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	Standardised Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
1960	21.2	0.85	18.0	9.9	1.18	11.7	41.4
1961	20.2	0.85	17.2	8.6	1.18	10.1	21.3
1962	18.4	0.85	15.6	9.7	1.18	11.4	15.4
1963	19.5	0.93	18.1	7.1	1.21	8.6	7.2
1964	19.0	0.93	17.7	8.4	1.21	10.2	7.2
England and Wales 1964			18.4			11.3	20.0

Births

There were 138 live births during the year compared with 139 during the previous year resulting in an adjusted rate of 17.7 for the District.

Death Rate

The adjusted rate of 10.2 is near the average for previous years and falls midway between the National and County Rates.

Infant Mortality Rate

One infant died from congenital defects following birth in hospital. Variations in the Infant Mortality Rate are of little significance when resulting from such a few deaths.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following notifications of infectious disease were received during the year :-

Measles	25	Whooping Cough	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	Pneumonia	Nil

I am pleased to report a further year of freedom from major infectious disease, diphtheria and poliomyelitis. No outbreaks of food poisoning were reported although the health department investigated several minor gastro intestinal upsets referred by medical practitioners. The two notifications of puerperal pyrexia were of little obstetric significance.

The St. Stephen's Ward, St. Albans City Hospital provides treatment facilities for the occasional infectious case needing hospital care.

Tuberculosis

Two new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified by the Chest Physician during the year, the total remaining on the register under supervision at the end of the year being 42 - the same as for the previous year.

The Chest Clinics at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, Welwyn Garden City, and the Lister Hospital, Hitchin, undertake the treatment of patients in Welwyn and the southern part of the District, while patients from the Mardley Hill/Woolmer Green area attend Letchworth Clinic. Home visiting is maintained through the Tuberculosis Health Visitors and the Home Nurses, and I am particularly grateful to Miss McMullen for advice on housing needs and domiciliary care of several patients.

The annual B.C.G. vaccination of children aged 13 years attending St. Mary's School, was undertaken in April, 48 children receiving the protecting vaccination.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY:

Water is supplied to the whole of the Welwyn Rural District by the Lee Valley Water Company and during the year I am pleased to report that the supply has been satisfactory. The policy of sampling the whole distribution system regularly is still continued and of 254 bacteriological and 26 chemical samples taken within the Rural District all conformed to standards of purity considered suitable for public supply.

I am always in close touch with the Stevenage Divisional Engineer of the Company, who keeps me posted as to any difficulties experienced and improvements anticipated.

The Lee Valley Water Company issues a comprehensive Annual Report, copies of which are sent to elected members, and it has many interesting features in connection with the finding and distributing of water for domestic and commercial purposes. The following is an extract from the Report on the question of consumption per head per day and tracing of waste:

" The figures for domestic consumption for the year 1963/64
" vary from 56 to 30 gallons per head per day on the average
" in different parts of the area of supply. Some of the
" difference may be accounted for by variations in usage, but
" the range is so wide that in the areas of high consumption
" there must be considerable waste. The tracing of waste can
" be done most satisfactorily by systematic inspection and
" survey by waste meter installations. Up to the present
" staff shortage has precluded the organised detection of
" waste, but recent appointments to the inspectorate staff
" will enable a start to be made on this very important work."

I am advised that four waste water detection stations are to be set up in the Welwyn Rural District shortly. I had actually prepared the plans of four such stations in my office before the water undertaking was sold to the Company. There is a reference in the Report to the effect of the "South East Study" upon water supply and it is anticipated that the population increase will pose many problems in water supply and the 1964 Report indicates in very general terms a number of ways in which water resources may be augmented.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL:

As reported last year work commenced during the year the subject of this report on main drainage works which will, on completion, have the effect of providing main drainage facilities to the whole of the Welwyn Rural District with the exception of the Parish of Ayot St. Lawrence and a small outlying part of the Parish of Ayot St. Peter.

From an engineering point of view progress has been satisfactory but the scheme has created a far greater administrative burden on my department than the Digswell scheme. This is mainly due to the fact that in the Mardley Heath area most of the sewer runs have passed through private gardens or along private roads. This has meant that my department has prepared upwards of 800 Formal Notices under Sections 15 and 16 of the Public Health Act, 1936 and 800 25" scale plans in support. Furthermore the public relations work in dealing with property owners' verbal and written complaints on reinstatements, together with interviews and telephone calls, has made the latter part of the year extremely busy.

The chalk dell at the Woolmer Green Works, which received the sewage effluent from the treatment tank threatened to overflow during the year, and temporary deep lagoons had to be cut. At the moment of writing this report the temporary deep lagoons are full and it will be a great relief when this flow can be turned into the new gravity sewer.

The cesspool service operated by the Council continues and in the main a satisfactory service has been maintained. However the one vehicle owned by the Council for this purpose is getting older and hold up due to repairs is becoming a more common occurrence. It is hoped however that with the advent of the new drainage system throughout the whole of the district the service will run down fairly quickly over the next two years or so.

I set out below details of the number of services given over the last nine years:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Services given</u>
1956	819
1957	932
1958	1023
1959	1025
1960	1101
1961	1166
1962	1165
1963	1089
1964	1100

RAINFALL:

Readings of rainfall are taken at the Rural District Council's Weather Station, By-Pass Road, Welwyn. There was a measurable fall of rain on 127 days yielding a total of 19.51 inches for the year. The heaviest fall was recorded on 1st June and was 0.82 inches.

The wettest month was June with a fall of 4.07 inches and the driest month was August with a fall of 0.62 inches.

Rainfall for 1963 was 22.59".

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL:

The Rural Council have continued to maintain a generally satisfactory weekly collection of domestic refuse throughout the whole of the district. Due to a chronic labour shortage the system has, on occasions, broken down but I find that members of the public are, as a rule, very understanding if the situation can be explained to them.

Maintaining continuity of labour is the greatest problem. The type of labour we obtain for refuse collection is formed partly by a floating type of labour which does not appear to stay anywhere for any great length of time. This creates difficulties in welding the refuse collectors into an effective team with sufficient knowledge of the district to know how most effectively to give coverage to it.

The bonus scheme has been produced but the matter is still under consideration with the Trade Unions.

During the year the Rural Council made a further application to the Hertfordshire County Council for planning consent to extend the present Refuse Tip into part of the land at the moment used for the disposal of sewage from Welwyn. This application has not been determined and when an enquiry was made of the Planning Officer as to the reason for the delay your Council was advised that the Minister of Transport had under consideration the re-alignment of the trunk road A.1. between the Clock Junction at Welwyn and the Bull Hotel at Stanborough. One of the lines under consideration would pass through the land required for extended refuse disposal purposes and it was therefore not possible to give a decision until the Minister's decision had been reached as to the final route of the road. Temporary steps have been taken to reorganise the existing ground available to the Council and it is hoped that this will enable us to carry on until the future of the A.1. road is decided.

I can report that the purchase of the bulldozer for work on the tip has been a great success. Of course, there are times when I have had no personnel to operate the vehicle and other times when there have been mechanical defects, but these difficulties have to be expected and it is the overall picture that is the criterion as to whether a scheme is a success or not.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS:

During the year Discretionary Grants in respect of 6 properties in the sum of £2,378 and Standard Grants in respect of 6 properties in the sum of £880 were approved by the Council.

Seven were for owner/occupier and five for tenanted properties.

RODENT CONTROL - PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949:

The joint scheme of control with Hitchin Rural District Council continues satisfactorily and I set out on the following page details of the work done during the year.

SUMMARY FOR THE PERIOD 1st JANUARY to 31st DECEMBER 1964

District	Number of hours worked					TOTAL
	Sewers	Tips etc.	Private Dwellings	Business Premises	Agric. land etc.	
Hitchin R.D.C.	193 $\frac{1}{4}$	762 $\frac{1}{4}$	447 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	170	1604 $\frac{1}{2}$
Welwyn R.D.C.	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	151	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{3}{4}$	285 $\frac{1}{4}$
	216 $\frac{3}{4}$	837 $\frac{3}{4}$	598 $\frac{1}{2}$	44	192 $\frac{3}{4}$	1889 $\frac{3}{4}$

Other figures:

Total milage

covered - 10,518

Petrol used - 271 gals.

Approx. n.p.g. - 38.81

Time spent on vehicle maint.,
receiving instructions, reports
on visits, bait handling etc.

206 $\frac{3}{4}$

TOTAL HOURS WORKED

2096 $\frac{1}{2}$

MATERIALS USED:

	Warfarin No.5	Cynag	D.D.T. & Talc	Sausage Rusk	Zinc Phosphide
Hitchin R.D.C.	1958 lbs.	6 lbs. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.	9 ozs.	42 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	17 ozs.
Welwyn R.D.C.	538 lbs.	1 lb. 9 ozs.	4 ozs.	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	3 ozs.

CARAVAN SITES:

Again there is no change in the caravan situation since last year. The Rural Council still accepts it as a responsibility to protect the Green Belt and support the County Council's Green Belt policy and therefore resists applications for caravan sites on these grounds.

THE ANIMALS (BOARDING ESTABLISHMENT) ACT 1963:

This Act came into operation on 1st January, 1964 and one set of premises was registered during the year.

OFFICES SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963:

The statistical report (O.S.R.14.) for the period May to December, 1964 has been forwarded to the Ministry of Labour.

Arising out of my investigation the following information has come to light:

Premises Registered:

a)	Offices	15	
b)	Retail Shops	29	
c)	Catering establishments open to the public and canteens	11	
		<hr/> 55	Total

People employed:

a)	Offices	326	
b)	Retail Shops	92	
c)	Catering establishments open to the public	59	
d)	Canteens	21	
		<hr/> 264	Males
		234	Females
		<hr/> 498	Total

In addition to the above, 39 premises were investigated and found, at the moment, to be outside the scope of the Act.

Details of 34 other premises, i.e. factories, County Council and Crown premises have been forwarded to the Inspector of Factories, as being under the jurisdiction of that department.

Details of the premises on the Rural District Council register have been given to the Chief Fire Officer, who will deal with the issue of Fire Certificates.

As the Sanitary Accommodation and Overcrowding Regulations are not yet in force for existing properties, I hope to carry out a full survey, in addition to the preliminary survey already done, some time during 1965.

In addition to the Act itself, which consists of 91 Sections and 2 Schedules, there have also been issued 29 circulars and 10 Statutory Instruments.

The addition of this Act is frankly an embarrassment to the present staff situation and I anticipate extreme difficulty in carrying out fully the Council's obligations hereunder.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1964:

This act due to operate from 1st April, 1965 is designed to secure the registration and control of all dealers in scrap metal. My enquiries so far show that only two dealers have been encountered in the Welwyn Rural area.

HOUSING:

A total of 23 houses were completed during the year by private enterprise and 19 by the Rural Council.

Under construction at the end of the year:

Private	45
Local Authority	20

TRADE EFFLUENT:

Only one factory in the district is producing trade effluent and monthly samples taken from these premises have all proved satisfactory.

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT:

During the year there has been no change in my staff establishment. There are therefore still four people regularly in contact with the public in the district and the system of giving verbal advice on site is still continued though not necessarily recorded.

Due to pressure in other directions not much time has been spent on the few substandard houses remaining in the district but it is a fact that these are gradually being improved without undue pressure from the Council.

If tenants in private houses raise complaints with me they are taken up earnestly.

I set out below a list of miscellaneous public health visits carried out by the staff during the year:

Housing defects (Not Council Houses)	40
Canteens	12
Foodshops	45
Cafes	14
Cesspools	30
Building Byelaws	974
Trade Effluent	16
Moveable dwellings	75
Statutory nuisances	18
Slaughterhouses	Nil
Bakeries	10
Factories	75
Improvement Grants	96
Rodent Control	461
Offices and Shops	83

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION:

There is no slaughter house being operated in the Rural District at present and all fresh and frozen meat is carried into the district. The following are details of unfit food surrendered to me during the year:

Decomposition	-	41 lbs. rabbit
"	-	56 lbs. cod fillet
"	-	20 lbs. calves livers
"	-	46 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. chicken

Defective, damaged and blown containers	-	14 miscellaneous
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FACTORIES ACT, 1961 - WELWYN GARDEN CITY U.D.C.

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	9	4	1	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	131	180	20	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	20	22	3	-
Total	160	206	24	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable	30	30	—	3	—
Total	32	32	—	3	—

3. OUTWORKERS

Making wearing apparel
Brush Making

30

3

33

FACTORIES ACT, 1961 - HATFIELD R.D.C.

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	5	8	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	112	123	9	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	117	131	9	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
		Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	4	3	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable	-	3	-	3	-
Other offences	1	1	-	-	-
Total	5	7	-	3	-

3. OUTWORKERS

Making wearing apparel

30

Total:

30

FACTORIES ACT, 1961 - WELWYN R.D.C

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	25	40	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	35	-	-
Total	29	75	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

3. OUTWORKERS
Glove Manufacturer

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

WELWYN DIVISION - HEALTH SERVICES

This section is an account of the personal health services of the County Council in the Welwyn Division prepared as a supplement to the report on the services provided by the District Councils to present a comprehensive review of the health services in the area. The section is of necessity brief with emphasis on new trends and important aspects. More detailed information upon the whole range of the County Health Services can be obtained from the Annual Reports of the County Medical Officer.

The main change during the year has been the increase in demand for the services of District Nurses and after care visiting by Health Visitors and Social Workers in association with the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, which with all departments fully established now forms the principal diagnostic and treatment centre for the area. Particularly close relationships have been established with the maternity and paediatric departments, and the attendance of the Divisional Medical and Nursing staff at clinical meetings and discussions at the Hospital has been encouraged.

STAFF

The general staffing position in the Welwyn Division for doctors, nurses and the specialist technical officers continues to be satisfactory due to relatively attractive working conditions and the assistance given by the Development Corporation and the Councils in housing. We have been particularly fortunate in having the same team of doctors, who meet regularly at the Divisional Office to discuss administrative and technical matters arising in their work, and I am particularly indebted to Dr. Howarth who has developed special schemes of health education and group discussion at Infant Welfare Centres in Welwyn Garden City and enquiries into the smoking habits of teachers, in addition to deputising for me in administrative matters. Dr. Macartney has made good use of his special interest and knowledge in paediatrics and the development of the enuresis clinic. I am pleased that he has decided to enrol for the D.P.H. course in 1965 with a view to a career in the Public Health Service. Dr. Ponsford has continued her clinic and school work in the Hatfield area and we are fortunate to have Dr. Jennings, Dr. Searle, and Dr. Lloyd as part-time medical officers who regularly assist in addition to their family commitments at home.

There have been changes among the health visiting and nursing staff but the services have been well maintained. In some of the outlying rural areas, however, the shortage of nurses has been

more acutely felt and it has only been by co-operation and considerable effort on the part of Miss Reay and all the nursing staff concerned that the work has been covered.

The shortage of home helps gradually becomes more acute or, rather, Mrs. Cosgreave, the Home Help Organizer, is called upon to meet an increasing work load without being able to recruit more women into the service. The demands of local factories and offices in the towns for women's labour is largely responsible for this shortage, while the opening of the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital has not only increased the recruiting difficulty but also the demands on the service in the after care of patients of the hospital. The problem appears to be common to all the rapidly developing new towns in Hertfordshire, and more effective inducement to enter the service must be sought if we are to maintain the service at a minimum effective level both in the towns and rural areas.

MATERNITY SERVICES

The following table shows the increase in the number of hospital confinements following the opening of the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital in July, 1963.

Live Births for 1960 - 1964

Welwyn Division

Year	Domiciliary	Hospital and Nursing Home	Total
1960	608	991	1,599
1961	651	1,008	1,659
1962	664	999	1,663
1963	575	1,143	1,718
1964	416	1,173	1,589

This sixty bed obstetric unit provides ideal, up-to-date facilities for hospital confinement with well-equipped antenatal department, labour wards, nursery, milk kitchen, premature baby unit and lying-in rooms. The hospital is also a Part 2 Training School for midwives. The Department has already established itself as the principal obstetric centre for the area and at present books a quota of mothers from St. Albans and Stevenage in addition to serving the needs of Mid Herts.

Most useful discussion on the development of the obstetric service in Mid Herts took place at the meetings of the Maternity Services Liaison Committee at St. Albans and Mr. Watson and Mr. Seligman have inaugurated regular clinical meetings at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital to which the local practitioners and midwives are invited.

In this Division, three-quarters of the deliveries now take place in hospital which gives the domiciliary midwives an opportunity to undertake more general nursing duties on the District. The nurse/midwives seem content with this re-adjustment of their work, but those practitioners who wish to maintain their interest in practical midwifery are concerned at the diminishing opportunity for them to conduct domiciliary deliveries as a part of their general practice. While an increasing proportion of women these days wish to leave hospital early, the majority of mothers are persuaded to stay for the usual ten days after delivery and accommodation is available for this. Some ten per cent of admissions to the unit at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital are booked for early (48 hour) discharge with the prior approval of the Health Department, who arrange for their subsequent maternity nursing in the home and domestic help when required.

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

The Child Welfare sessions through the Division continue to be held in high esteem by the mothers and attendances have been well maintained. The trend towards informality is encouraged both in the larger urban centres and in the village halls so that the afternoons have become open social clubs for mothers and children. More clinics are now holding group discussions on infant care and domestic subjects and the County Library Service assists with displays and occasional talks on books for children and on child care. The vaccination and immunization uptake has reached new levels and the testing of hearing and for phenylketonuria is now an established procedure for all infants. The value of the routine screening tests for young children, especially those in the "at risk" group has been shown by the earlier referral of children with hearing defects to the Audiology clinic, and there is no doubt that extension of this periodic assessment of physical development, special senses and intelligence in early childhood will assume increasing priority at the centres.

HEALTH VISITING

Although wishing to conform to County Policy in promoting close association of the work of the health visitors with General Practitioners, it has been necessary to proceed with caution in arranging direct attachment of the health visitors in towns, as we are below establishment and some of the health visitors do not drive cars and would thus find it difficult to cover a large area. The attachment of two health visitors to a practitioner group in Welwyn Garden City was discontinued by mutual agreement after nine months although there were undoubted benefits to both parties during this period, and it is hoped to have a further trial in the town when additional staff has eased the burden of work. A second attachment scheme in Hatfield, approached more cautiously, promises well and I have been impressed by some particularly effective supportive work in cases of family breakdown, following joint General Practitioner/Health Visitor consultation at the Doctor's consulting rooms. In the

villages, of course, the Health Visitors and District Nurses have always worked in close association with the local practitioners, but every opportunity is sought to promote close working relationships.

ENURESIS CLINIC

Dr. Macartney has continued to hold his special clinic for the treatment of persistent enuresis or bed wetting in selected children using the electric pad and buzzer machines.

Describing the achievements at these sessions he reports:-

"During 1964, thirty-six children completed treatment of whom thirty-four were cured and two failed to get dry. In addition I count two further failures, one who refused to use the buzzer after a trial of only a few days, and another who having obtained a buzzer never came again. We eventually retrieved the buzzer but I have no information as to progress. With fourteen buzzers in almost constant use, it seems that each machine serves about three children each year. I see no way of securing a better turnover. There are always those who fail to keep appointments. Some fail to co-operate well and the summer holidays are a difficult time. However, thirty-four children and families is a worth-while score. This year, for the first time, two children actually left the district during the course of treatment, one successfully completed his treatment and returned the buzzer by post, the other required only two further visits and his mother preferred to bring him from Chelmsford - some patients really do demonstrate their appreciation! A waiting list of thirty-five would seem to indicate about a year's wait; since general practitioners are asking me to place children on the list at age four-and-a-half to five years. I am sure, however, that it is only occasionally appropriate to start using the buzzer in children under the age of six to six-and-a-half years.

I find that since I took over the clinic in September, 1961, I have treated about 110 children and I am now in the process of carrying out a follow-up survey and analysing the result in more detail".

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

There has been no change in the recommended age table for the protective measures available to children by vaccination and immunisation. Parents are encouraged to have their children vaccinated against smallpox and poliomyelitis, and immunised against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, either by arrangement with their general practitioner or at the clinics.

Approx. Age	Vaccine	Notes
2-6 months	Combined diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough	Oral Vaccine now used Preferably just before school entry
	Combined diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough	
	Combined diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough	
7-10 months	Poliomyelitis	
	Poliomyelitis	
	Poliomyelitis	
1 to 2 yrs.	Smallpox	
15-18 months	Combined diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough	Preferably just before school entry
School entry	Poliomyelitis (Oral)	
School entry	Combined diphtheria, tetanus	
8-12 yrs.	Smallpox revaccination	
13 yrs. plus	Tuberculosis (B.C.G.)	

Smallpox Vaccination

In view of the possibility of the introduction of virulent smallpox into this country resulting from the use of air transport and international travel, the Ministry of Health recommends vaccination of all children during their second year followed by re-vaccination during school life. Vaccination is free under the National Health Service upon request to the child's doctor or at the welfare centre. The annual returns show an increase on the number of primary vaccinations for last year due to the postponement of these vaccinations to the second year of life. A total of 1,089 children below the age of five years received primary vaccination.

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus

It is now nineteen years since diphtheria occurred in Mid Herts due to the high level of protection produced by active immunisation. Triple antigen conferring immunity to diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus is mainly used early in infancy with reinforcing doses at eighteen months and at school entry. In spite of the absence of diphtheria, most parents still realize the importance of these early protective measures, over 80 per cent of infants receiving the primary course of injections from their doctors or at the clinics.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Vaccination against poliomyelitis is available to all under the age of 40 years and the oral (Sabin) type vaccine is now used to the virtual exclusion of the original Salk type vaccine. No ill effects have been reported following extensive use of the Sabin vaccine over the past two years and the marked reduction in paralytic poliomyelitis is due largely to the general acceptance of this vaccine throughout the country. The recommended course is three doses of oral vaccine at monthly intervals starting at the age of seven months followed by a reinforcing dose at the child's entry to school. During 1964, 1,604 children under the age of 3 years received their initial course of Sabin vaccine, and 181 persons over this age, while a total of 1,727 persons received the reinforcing dose.

SELECTIVE SCHOOL MEDICAL EXAMINATION

Following discussion with the County Medical Officer and the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Education and Science, a trial scheme of selective school medical inspection for this Division was devised and approved by the County Education Committee during the year.

Basically in this scheme, arrangements have been made for the entrant medical examination to be deferred until the second or third term at school and that all subsequent routine medical inspections by age group will be replaced by a scheme of selective examination and follow-up. The numbers at the entrant examination will be reduced to 10 per session, allowing more time for a complete examination and discussion of the child with the parent and class teacher. At this examination, a short report on the progress and emotional stability of the child by the class teacher and head teacher will be available, together with any additional comments they may wish to make about the child. A brief report will be sent to the general practitioner following this initial school medical inspection, where an abnormality has been detected. This will provide the general practitioner with a convenient basic record of the child and encourage the link between the family doctor and the school medical officer.

No further medically conducted routine examinations of the child are considered necessary following this initial full examination. In the child's first year at Secondary school, a questionnaire is to be submitted to the parents for subsequent scrutiny and selection of pupils for examination. Children having defects disclosed by the initial examination will be followed up at appropriate intervals and the school doctor and nurse will visit each school for at least one session per term to carry out re-inspections and examine children referred as "specials" by the head of the school, class teacher, school nurse, teacher of physical education, parent, general practitioner, or hospital. A reduction in the number of children seen as a matter of routine after the basic entrant

examination will give greater opportunities for the medical officers to attend to the children with defects. Another important result will be that the medical officers will have more time to hold discussions with both teachers and parents, and to visit departments of the school such as classrooms, gymnasium, swimming pools, and school canteens.

The leaving examination during the last year at school will take the form of a consultation session. This is mainly for the discussion of any health problems with the school leaver, and will involve detailed examination only in cases where defects are known to be present or suspected.

One of the main difficulties in a scheme based on selective examination such as this, is to ensure that the system of selection is as good at bringing forward defects as our present system. To see whether this is the case, some form of control must be applied. It is intended, therefore, in this scheme that during the second and third year of operation, random samples of pupils in appropriate age groups will be fully examined to determine whether any significant defects have been missed by the process of selection.

ASSOCIATED SOCIAL SERVICES

Family Planning

The steady increase in the requests for advice and practical aids to planned parenthood at the sessions led to the dividing of the Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield branch of the Family Planning Association into two separate branches running the sessions in each town. Sessions are now held at the Goosacre Health Centre on Mondays 6.30 - 8 p.m. and Thursdays 1.30 - 3 p.m., and at Queensway Hatfield on Wednesdays 7.30 - 8.30 p.m. A second session will shortly be needed at Hatfield where the attendances continue to increase.

The Fertility Clinic has now transferred to the Gynaecological Out-Patient Department of the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital.

Marriage Guidance

The Mid Herts Marriage Guidance Council, Hon. Sec. Mrs. K.B. Gardner, has had an active year under the chairmanship of Mrs. J. Hawkins, 107 people with marriage difficulties turning to the counsellors for help during the year. This represents an increase over previous years, possibly reflecting improved awareness in the community of the help the Council offers.

A new counselling centre at Bull Plain Health Centre, Hertford was opened in November so that the team of eight counsellors were working in centres in Welwyn Garden City, Hoddesdon and Hertford during the year.

The Marriage Guidance Council works to promote sound family life, not only by giving counselling help to those in marriage difficulties, but also by helping young people to give serious consideration to personal relationships. This work is done by Group Leaders, or as they are now to be called Education Counsellors, who are selected and trained in a similar manner to marriage counsellors. Their approach is generally through discussion in small groups, which give opportunities for young people to express themselves freely and form healthy attitudes to friendship and marriage.

The existing pattern of discussions in schools was well maintained and a total of 33 sessions was held in a girls' school, a mixed school and a College of Further Education. In addition a course was held in a church youth club, and several other youth organisations had single visits from education counsellors. During the year three marriage preparation courses were held, attended by a total of ten engaged couples.

In the annual report the Chairman of the Council again stresses the need for more counsellors and education counsellors to meet the general need for these Services in Mid Herts.